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COLOMA'S CURBSIDE CHRISTMAS

Local, A3

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New Buffalo city manager dies of COVID-19

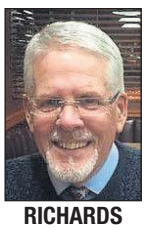
City officials pay tribute

By DAVE JOHNSON
For The Herald-Palladium

NEW BUFFALO — City Manager David Richards lost his battle with COVID-19 over the weekend, it was announced Monday, leaving officials in mourning in the small city.

Richards had been city manager since coming to New Buffalo at the beginning of 2017.

Said New Buffalo Mayor John Humphrey on his Facebook page: "With sadness and regret I must announce the untimely passing of our City Manager Dave Richards due to complications from COVID-19 this past weekend."


RICHARDS

The city on its website echoed that sentiment. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time of great sorrow. Mr. Richards served as city manager since 2017 and had many wonderful successes in his time here. Most notably, bringing the city into a strong financial position which was not the case when he took office, and a brand new downtown. He will be sorely missed because he was a great City leader, friend, and co-worker."

Richards previously had served as city manager for the Alaskan cities of Unalakleet, from December 2015 to January 2016, and Fort Yukon, August 2012 to July 2013.

Richards was given a "final trip" by the New Buffalo Police and Fire Departments on Monday evening, past City Hall, where city officials and employees gathered to pay tribute.

"Dave was a great person who did a lot for the city and he's going to be missed," said former City Council member Mark Kroll.

Deputy Clerk Nancy Griffin said Richards was great to work for, noting he was "very generous with his compliments and how much he appreciates you being his employee and working for the city."

Richards had been very ill for several weeks battling complications stemming from COVID-19.

The illness may have had roots going back to the Nov. 3 election. In the wake of Election Day, an outbreak soon tore through city offices.

This was posted on the city's website on Dec. 3: "Shortly after the November election, four City Hall employees and one DPW employee contracted the virus. This caused a ripple effect with other employees being exposed to their co-workers, even though proper precautions were in place. These illnesses caused City Hall to close completely for approximately a week and a half so the required quarantine timelines and a complete cleaning of City Hall could be accomplished. … Of the five employees that contracted the illness, four have fully recovered and are back to work. Unfortunately ... Mr. Richards has become seriously ill from complications of the virus."

Mayor Humphrey, who was just elected to the council in the Nov. 3

See **COVID-19**, page A6

Don Campbell / HP staff

David Wenger will soon step into a new role as president of the Stevensville Village Council.

Stepping up to the plate

Incoming Stevensville president isn't afraid to try new things

Q&A
DAVID WENGER

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

STEVENSVILLE — David Wenger says he's not shy about trying new things.

The 49-year-old Dowagiac native started a new job two months ago and became president of Stevensville after the November election.

In addition, he said that while staying home during the COVID-19 pandemic, he's become a bit of a handyman.

"I built a deck, built a fence, put in a gas fire pit," he said. "There's a number of projects that I've taken on that I don't know if I would have if we weren't in the midst of a pandemic."

He said trying new things builds character.

"It's great to have experiences," he said. "It molds an individual to have more experience in different things. I'm probably not an expert at any one thing, but I'm pretty well rounded in terms of my knowledge on a lot of different subjects."

Wenger has often made substantial changes in his life. Even though he grew up in Southwest Michigan, he lived in the Chicago area for 22 years before moving to Stevensville 10 years ago.

He said that he and his wife, Lakeshore High School graduate Megan (Hines) Wegner, initially lived in Chicago. But after their first daughter was born, he said she wanted a change.

"My wife said, 'We're not going to stay in Chicago and raise our daughter in the city,'" he said. "I said, 'Well, I don't want to move to the suburbs.' So she said, 'Fine, then we'll move to my hometown.' And obviously, she won."

Which he said was a good thing.

"She was absolutely right," he said. "We've embraced it and we love everything about living in this area again."

The Wengers have two daughters, ages 7 and 10, who attend Roosevelt Elementary School in Lincoln Township. He also has an adult daughter who lives in the Chicago area.

"The whole reason coming here is

See **WENGER**, page A6

ST. JOSEPH

City commissioner to resign early in 2021

Peggy Getty will be moving out of area

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — St. Joseph City Commissioner Peggy Getty announced Monday that she will resign within the next few months, before the end of her term.

Getty is serving a four-year term that ends in November 2021.

"I very much appreciate the opportunity to have represented the people of St. Joseph and to have worked with the wonderful and hard-working staff of the city as well as my fellow commissioners," she said.

GETTY

Getty said her husband's job is being transferred to South Bend, Ind., so they will be selling their home in St. Joseph and moving.

"It will be either later this winter or early spring. I'm not stopping yet, but will be in the next few months," Getty told the city commission. "I've enjoyed every moment. The staff and the city are absolutely stellar."

Other commissioners told Getty they will be sorry to see her go.

"You've done a very wonderful job. Your heart has been in everything you do on behalf of the city taxpayers," said Commissioner Jeff Richards.

Mayor Mike Garey told Getty, "You're a great commissioner and a really great person."

Shoreline study

In other business at Monday's meeting held via Zoom, the city commission approved the submission of a grant application for a study to be known as the St. Joseph Lake Michigan Shoreline Study.

City Manager John Hodgson said money is available from the U.S. Department of Commerce through the Michigan Coastal Management Program. The city will apply for $100,000 and commit to a match of $100,000 for the study, expected to cost about $200,000.

Hodgson said the goal is to determine appropriate long-term measures to combat erosion of the shoreline, and the study would include the area from the piers to the water treatment plant, including Silver Beach, Lions Park and the Lions Park Road neighborhood, from Park Street to Fourth Street.

"For some years we've been trying to come up with ways to make things better. This is the next step in the process to find the right way to address this," Hodgson said. "It's a slow process, but it's a beginning."

In another matter, the city commission recognized Matthew Hutchinson for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. He is with Troop 614 and worked to improve the Boys & Girls Club of Benton Harbor by installing bird and bat houses, removing invasive species along the tree line, planting

See **GETTY**, page A6

Huntington Bank to take over TCF in $6 billion merger

By KEN SWEET
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Huntington Bank will absorb Detroit's TCF Financial in an all-stock deal worth $6 billion, the latest in a string of tie-ups that have led to a crop of new and larger U.S. regional banks.

Huntington, with $120 billion in assets, outsizes TCF, which has assets of around $50 billion. The TCF brand will be changed to Huntington, and Detroit's TCF Center will be renamed after Huntington in the coming years.

The move comes a year after Chemical Bank was absorbed by TCF, which will be changing its signs yet again.

There are 14 TCF branches in Berrien and Van Buren counties, with three alone in Benton Harbor. There are three Huntington Bank branch locations in the area.

The merger is expected to close in the second quarter of 2021, subject to satisfaction of customary closing conditions.

Huntington has pledged to maintain TCF's presence in Detroit, including its plans to occupy a skyscraper currently under construction in downtown Detroit that will contain TCF's commercial lending business.

"We wanted to remain Detroit's hometown bank," said TCF Financial CEO Gary Torgow, in an interview.

The consumer front of the combined bank will be based in Columbus, Ohio, Huntington's home town.

Huntington is among the largest participants in the Paycheck Protection Program, the government fund that provided loans to small businesses to help meet payrolls during the pandemic and avoid layoffs. The bank, like many others, has had to restructure its operations to allow its thousands of employees to work remotely.

Along with going into Detroit, the merger will give Huntington access to markets like Denver and the Upper Midwest.

"We are going to be much better together," said Huntington Bank CEO Steve Steinour, noting that Huntington, along with new markets, would also get access to TCF's equipment finance business and inventory finance businesses.

The Huntington-TCF merger is the latest deal among regional banks, who have looked to get bigger and more competitive against the Wall Street titans like JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup and Bank of America. The first big deal came last

See **MERGER**, page A6

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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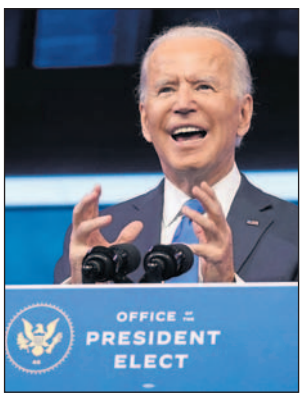
Tomorrow's Weather
High 36 Low 24

6 50645 49085 0

Electoral College makes it official: Biden won, Trump lost

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press



Patrick Semansky / AP

President-elect Joe Biden speaks after the Electoral College formally elected him as president, on Monday at The Queen theater in Wilmington, Del.

WASHINGTON — The Electoral College formally chose Joe Biden on Monday as the nation's next president, giving him a solid electoral majority of 306 votes and confirming his victory in last month's election. The state-by-state voting took on added importance this year because of President Donald Trump's refusal to concede he had lost.

Heightened security was in place in some states as electors met to cast paper ballots, with masks, social distancing and other pandemic precautions the order of the day. The results will be sent to Washington and tallied in a Jan. 6 joint session of Congress over which Vice President Mike Pence will preside.

For all Trump's unsupported claims of fraud, there was little suspense and no change as all the electoral votes allocated to Biden and the president in last month's popular vote went officially to each man.

Biden handily beat Trump, who had 232 electoral votes, a 74-vote margin that Biden noted Trump had called a landslide when he won by that much in 2016. On Election Day, the Democrat topped the incumbent Republican by more than 7 million in the popular vote nationwide.

California's 55 electoral votes put Biden over the top. Vermont, with 3 votes, was the first state to report. Hawaii, with 4 votes, was the last.

"Once again in America, the rule of law, our Constitution, and the will of the people have prevailed. Our democracy – pushed, tested, threatened – proved to be resilient, true, and strong," Biden said in an evening speech in which he stressed the size of his win and the record 81 million people who voted for him.

He renewed his campaign promise to be a president for all Americans, whether they voted for him or not, and said the country has hard work ahead on the virus and economy.

But there was no concession from the White House, where Trump has continued to make unsupported allegations of fraud.

Trump's efforts to undermine the election results also led to concerns about safety for the electors, virtually unheard of in previous years.

LOTTERIES

Monday drawings

Michigan
Poker Lotto
4C-9C-10C-9H-10S
Midday Daily 3
5-2-2
Midday Daily 4
0-3-5-7
Daily 3
8-2-3
Daily 4
5-4-9-4
Fantasy 5
02-07-15-18-39
Estimated jackpot
$105,000
Keno
05-08-12-19-22-24-29-30-33-38-42-48-50-51-54-59-66-67-69-70-73-79
Mega Millions jackpot
$291 million
Powerball jackpot
$287 million

Sunday drawings

Indiana
Cash 5
03-09-13-26-32
Estimated jackpot
$566,000
Cash4Life
16-32-33-42-53, Cash Ball: 3
Quick Draw Midday
09-11-13-14-17-24-29-30-32-34-42-43-44-46-48-58-60-66-74-78, BE: 66
Daily Three-Midday
5-6-2, SB: 8
Daily Three-Evening
5-2-9, SB: 2
Daily Four-Midday
4-0-1-1, SB: 8
Daily Four-Evening
0-8-3-4, SB: 2
Quick Draw Evening
10-11-13-19-20-22-23-24-27-28-38-39-47-49-51-53-56-61-72-73, BE: 38

Illinois
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
22-23-37-38-42
Estimated jackpot
$600,000
Pick Three-Midday
9-3-5, Fireball: 1
Pick Three-Evening
0-0-6, Fireball: 0
Pick Four-Midday
0-6-9-3, Fireball: 1
Pick Four-Evening
8-4-7-7, Fireball: 9
Lucky Day Lotto
04-15-17-21-43
Estimated jackpot
$650,000

– The Associated Press

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'Healing is coming': U.S. health care workers start getting vaccine

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press

Jessica Hill / AP

Colleen Teevan, System Pharmacy Clinical Manager at Hartford HealthCare, administers the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for COVID-19 to healthcare worker Connor Paleski outside of Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Conn., on Monday.

Health care workers around the country rolled up their sleeves for the first COVID-19 shots Monday as hope that an all-out vaccination effort can defeat the coronavirus smacked up against the heartbreaking reality of 300,000 U.S. deaths.

"Relieved," proclaimed critical care nurse Sandra Lindsay after becoming one of the first to be inoculated at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New York. "I feel like healing is coming."

And in Colorado, Gov. Jared Polis personally opened a delivery door to the FedEx driver and signed for a package holding 975 precious frozen doses of vaccine made by Pfizer Inc. and its German partner BioNTech.

The shots kicked off what will become the largest vaccination effort in U.S. history, one that could finally conquer the outbreak.

Some 145 sites around the country, from Rhode Island to Alaska, received shipments, with more deliveries set for the coming days. High-risk health care workers were first in line.

Nursing home residents also get priority, and a Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Bedford, Massachusetts, announced via Twitter that its first dose went to a 96-year-old World War II veteran, Margaret Klessens. Other nursing homes around the U.S. expect inoculations in the coming days.

The campaign began the same day the U.S. death toll from the surging outbreak crossed the 300,000 threshold, according to the count kept by Johns Hopkins University. The number of dead rivals the population of St. Louis or Pittsburgh. It is more than five times the number of Americans killed in the Vietnam War. It is equal to a 9/11 attack every day for more than 100 days.

Health experts know a wary public is watching the vaccination campaign, especially communities of color that have been hit hard by the pandemic but, because of the nation's legacy of racial health disparities and research abuses against Black people, have doubts about the vaccine.

Getting vaccinated is "a privilege," said Dr. Leonardo Seoane, chief academic officer at Ochsner Health in suburban New Orleans, after getting his dose. Seoane, who is Cuban American, urged "all of my Hispanic brothers and sisters to do it. It's OK."

The nearly 3 million doses now being shipped are just a down payment on the amount needed. More of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will arrive each week. And later this week, the FDA will decide whether to greenlight the world's second rigorously studied COVID-19 vaccine, made by Moderna Inc.

While the U.S. hopes for enough of both vaccines together to vaccinate 20 million people by the end of the month, and 30 million more in January, there won't be enough for the average person to get a shot until spring.

For now the hurdle is to rapidly get vaccine into the arms of millions, not just doctors and nurses but other at-risk health workers such as janitors and food handlers – and then deliver a second dose three weeks later.

"We're also in the middle of a surge, and it's the holidays, and our health care workers have been working at an extraordinary pace," said Sue Mashni, chief pharmacy officer at Mount Sinai Health System in New York City.

Plus, the shots can cause temporary fever, fatigue and aches as they rev up people's immune systems, forcing hospitals to stagger employee vaccinations.

Just half of Americans say they want to get vaccinated, while about a quarter don't and the rest are unsure, according to a recent poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Health Research.

The FDA, considered the world's strictest medical regulator, said the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which was developed at breakneck speed less than a year after the virus was identified, appears safe and strongly protective, and the agency laid out the data in a daylong public meeting last week for scientists and consumers alike to see.

"We know it works well," said Ochsner infectious-disease expert Dr. Katherine Baumgarten, who got her shot on Day 1. "As soon as you can get it, please do so."

Still, the vaccine was cleared for emergency use before a final study in nearly 44,000 people was complete. That research is continuing to try to answer additional questions. For example, while the vaccine is effective at preventing COVID-19 illness, it is not clear if it will stop the symptomless spread that accounts for half of all cases.

The shots still must be studied in children and during pregnancy. But the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said Sunday that vaccination should not be withheld from pregnant women who otherwise would qualify.

Also, regulators in Britain are investigating a few severe allergic reactions. The FDA instructed providers not to give the vaccine to those with a known history of severe allergic reactions to any of its ingredients.

Trump: Barr resigning, will leave before Christmas

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General William Barr, one of President Donald Trump's staunchest allies, is departing amid lingering tension over the president's baseless claims of election fraud and the investigation into President-elect Joe Biden's son.

Barr went Monday to the White House, where Trump said the attorney general submitted his letter of resignation. "As per letter, Bill will be leaving just before Christmas to spend the holidays with his family," Trump tweeted.

Trump has publicly expressed his anger about Barr's statement to The Associated Press earlier this month that the Justice Department had found no widespread fraud that would change the outcome of the election. Trump has also been angry that the Justice Department did not publicly announce it was investigating Hunter Biden ahead of the election, despite department policy against such a pronouncement.

Barr told the AP that U.S. attorneys and FBI agents have been working to follow up specific complaints and information they've received, but "to date, we have not seen fraud on a scale that could have effected a different outcome in the election."

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hp LOCAL & STATE

Berrien sees deadliest day of pandemic

County has now recorded 135 COVID-19 deaths

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

It was a deadly weekend in Berrien County for COVID-19 deaths.

The county recorded seven new COVID deaths on Saturday alone, with another being reported on Monday. Saturday was one of the single most deadly days of the pandemic so far in Berrien County.

This brought the county's death toll to 135. The deaths continue to be people over the age of 40.

COVID hospitalizations at Spectrum Health Lakeland rose to one of its highest levels ever reported on Sunday. The hospital reported having 70 patients as of 10 a.m. It reported having 66 patients on Saturday and Monday mornings.

As deaths mount and hospitalizations remain high, recoveries outpaced new cases over the weekend in Berrien County. The county added 478 recoveries and 260 new COVID-19 cases over the three days. That's compared to 266 recoveries and 311 new cases last weekend.

This brings the number of active cases in the county to about 3,726. That's down from 3,913 last Monday.

Van Buren County added four deaths over the weekend, bringing its death toll to 61. Cass County added one death, bringing its death toll to 36.

In addition, Van Buren recorded 100 new COVID-19 cases and Cass County recorded 82. That's lower than what the counties recorded last weekend. Van Buren County added 145 new cases last weekend, while Cass added 95.

School outbreaks

The state, on Monday, released a report showing several small COVID-19 outbreaks in Berrien County schools.

It was reported that Brown Elementary School in St. Joseph recently had three COVID cases in both students and staff.

Brandywine Middle/High School had two staff member cases, while Lakeshore High School had two student cases.

Blossomland Learning Center had four cases in both students and staff.

Outbreaks are defined as two or more COVID-19 cases who may have shared exposure on school grounds and are from different households.

No outbreaks were reported at any Van Buren or Cass county schools this week.

Long-term care facilities

COVID outbreaks at area long-term care facilities continue to ebb and flow, according to the state's report on Monday.

Riveridge Rehab and Health Center at Niles recorded just three new resident cases and five new staff cases last week, though it also saw nine resident deaths.

Pine Ridge Rehab and Nursing Center in Stevensville, which had also been dealing with an outbreak, recorded four new resident cases and two new staff cases.

Royalton Manor in St. Joseph, which is still dealing with an outbreak, recorded 20 new resident cases, 16 new staff cases and one resident death, according to Monday's report.

The Timbers of Cass County in Dowagiac saw its number of resident cases double over last week, to 32. It also had three resident deaths and 10 staff member cases.

A few other area facilities reported new cases in residents and staff this week. View the whole report at michigan.gov/coronavirus.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Area businesses are working together to hold Coloma Christmas Curbside next week in downtown Coloma.

Going curbside in Coloma

Merchants prepare for holiday event to help local restaurants

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

COLOMA — The streets of downtown Coloma will be lined with cars next Monday in an effort to support small businesses.

From 5-7 p.m. on Dec. 21, area residents are being asked to take part in Coloma's Curbside Christmas, where several participating businesses will serve food on a limited menu to attendees in their vehicles.

Taylor Prestidge, owner of Cafe Soulard's and recently appointed Coloma city commissioner, is among the organizers who felt there was a need to help local businesses during the pandemic and statewide shutdown.

"Restaurants aren't on the lists of things to be reopened soon. The restaurants downtown and everywhere in the state are struggling with this," Prestidge said. "This is already a slow part of the season in January. A lot of people are feeling defeated. We won't have the holiday money to get through the slow season. Once the extension happened, we began wondering what we could do."

Coloma was already set to have a holiday celebration with businesses painting their windows and adding Christmas lights.

After Prestidge reached out to Mayor Marsha Hammond, they decided to make the event bigger.

"The Loma has been doing curbside popcorn on Saturday nights. They've got a line two blocks long," Hammond said. "I think it's so marvelous to see people supporting it. We talked to the chief of police and everything just started to fall into place. Taylor has really ran with it."

From left, Taylor Prestidge, Coloma Mayor Marsha Hammond and Chana Kniebes sit down to discuss the upcoming Coloma Christmas Curbside next Monday in downtown Coloma.

Prestidge said the idea is to make the curbside event similar to the ones that the Berrien County Youth Fair enacted in the spring and summer.

Attendees will line up, while staying in their vehicles, and receive a limited menu of all the merchants and their options. By doing so, attendees can plan on what they're ordering from each restaurant and have their money ready.

The town will be decorated and volunteers dressed as elves will be walking along, handing out items, Prestidge said. There will also be a Santa Claus and the Grinch, who will talk to children who will remain inside their vehicles.

Among the participating merchants are The Loma, Soulard's, Subway, The Friendly Tavern and Easy Street Inn Food & Spirits.

Gift bags will be handed out to each participating car. Gift cards from random businesses will be included in the gift bags. Hammond said runners will be bringing out food to the awaiting vehicles during the curbside event. While it is only expected to last a couple of hours, Hammond said they're hoping to see a big turnout.

"I just hope everyone gets into it and gives a boost to our bars and restaurants. Everything has been hit so hard," she said.

Prestidge said the decision to hold such an event on a Monday was to ensure it didn't impede traffic. It was also scheduled to celebrate the first day of winter.

No registration is needed, since the event is free. Customers will be asked to pay with cash or card.

Prestidge said police and volunteers from the Jeep Club will help direct traffic.

"We had talked about this becoming an annual thing if it goes well as a Christmas event for the town," she said. "We just want to bring in the new year and help. The (restaurant) industry itself is important to us with everyone being so tight knit."

Taylor Prestidge, owner of Soulard's in downtown Coloma, has led the drive for area businesses involvement in Coloma Christmas Curbside.

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358, Twitter: @TonyWittkowski

Police seek public's help in locating man missing since Oct. 7

Man last seen in Lawrence

By HP STAFF

LAWRENCE — Law enforcement officials are seeking the public's help in finding a 45-year-old man who has been missing for more than two months.

Jimmy Green of Parchment was last seen Oct. 7 in Lawrence. Since that time, police from several jurisdictions have searched for him, to no avail.

"During the weeks following his disappearance, family members and friends of Jimmy Green, members of the public, firefighters, the Great Lakes Drone Company, Van Buren County Sheriff's deputies, along with police canine teams from Cass County, Van Buren County and the Michigan State Police have participated in many hours of organized searches throughout the Village of Lawrence and the surrounding vicinity," Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott stated in a news release issued Monday.

The sheriff's department is now turning to the public's help and encouraging anyone who may have information regarding Green's disappearance to contact the department's Detective Division at 269-657-7711, or Silent Observer at 269-343-2100.

The day of his disappearance, Green had been helping friends pick up sticks in their yard on Blackman Street in Lawrence when he walked away without saying a word, according to a previous news release from the sheriff's department. Neighbors last saw Green walking westbound from Blackman Street to St. Joseph Street at approximately 4:30 p.m., Oct. 7. At approximately 5 p.m., Green asked to borrow a phone and called his family from a home at the corner of E. James Street and Elizabeth Street in Lawrence.

He is described by family members as a very mild-mannered father with a mild form of Bell's-Palsy, giving him a slight speech impediment.

Green was last seen wearing a white T-shirt, khaki pants and a military-style boonie hat. He has green eyes, and brown hair and when last seen had a full goatee and mustache. He may use the last name of Doyle.

Photo provided

This photograph of 45-year-old Jimmy Green of Parchment was taken by a commercial security camera on Oct. 7 in Lawrence. He hasn't been seen since.

More Lakeshore students returning to in-person learning

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

STEVENSVILLE — More than 200 Lakeshore students who have been attending Lakeshore Virtual Academy are returning to in-person learning for the second semester, Superintendent Phil Freeman told school board trustees Monday.

The virtual academy was started this fall to give parents the option to continue to have their children learn remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. About 760 students attend the academy, with 88 of them from Bridgman Public Schools.

The second semester starts the third week in January.

After the meeting, Freeman said about one-third of the Bridgman students are also returning to in-person learning.

He said parents have mentioned to him many different reasons why their children are returning to in-person learning.

"But for the most part, they're saying that our systems are working and their kids are safe," he said.

Freeman said the number of students returning averages to about 20 students per grade. The district is adding an upper elementary teacher position for the second semester, but Freeman thinks the rest of the classrooms can absorb the incoming students, while social distancing, to slow the spread of the virus.

See LAKESHORE, page A4

Michigan electors cast 16 votes for President-elect Biden

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING — Michigan electors cast 16 votes Monday for President-elect Joe Biden, who reclaimed the battleground state for Democrats on his way to winning the White House.

The vote was announced by Michigan Democratic Party Chairwoman Lavora Barnes and confirmed by Democratic Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II during a scaled-back, socially distanced Electoral College ceremony inside the Michigan Senate.

The Capitol was closed to the public due to coronavirus restrictions. Lawmakers also closed their offices because of threats of violence. Electors and some top Democrats were escorted into the Statehouse by state police while a sparse group of protesters gathered outside.

"The people have spoken," said Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who delivered remarks in which she noted that a record 5.5 million Michigan voters cast ballots in the election despite the pandemic. "It was a safe, secure and fair election."

Citing baseless allegations of widespread fraud, Trump and his allies had urged the U.S. Supreme Court to invalidate Biden's 154,000-vote, or 2.8-percentage point, victory in Michigan and pushed the Republican-led Legislature to choose electors. But the legally suspect, longshot bids were rejected by the court and by Republican legislative leaders, who pointed to a state law that stipulates that the votes go to the popular vote winner.

The state certified Biden's win two weeks ago – one that was more than 14 times bigger than Trump's surprise, 10,700-vote margin over Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016.

One of the electors, history teacher Blake Mazurek, posted a photo of his official ballot for Biden's running mate Kamala Harris. "For my daughter – and EVERY woman throughout our land!" he tweeted.

He told reporters: "A Biden presidency, I hope, will restore a sense of decorum, even though we have for decades been sliding into very hyper-partisan sniping and attacks. I hope that he's able to show the country that his leadership will help begin the mending of fences. I want to have that optimism. I need that optimism."

The Capitol building is closed to the public due to coronavirus restrictions except when lawmakers meet for session. Amber McCann, spokeswoman for Republican Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, said legislators' offices in the statehouse and nearby buildings also were closed based on recommendations from law enforcement.

GOP lawmaker punished for not denouncing violence

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING — A Republican lawmaker was disciplined Monday for not denouncing potential violence at the Michigan Capitol before Democratic presidential electors met to vote for Joe Biden, who defeated President Donald Trump in the swing state.

State Rep. Gary Eisen, of St. Clair Township, told WPHM-AM that he planned to help with an unspecified "Hail Mary" GOP plan to challenge the election, conceding that the "uncharted" action likely would not change the result. Asked if he could guarantee people's safety, he said "no."

House Speaker Lee Chatfield and Speaker-elect Jason Wentworth, both Republicans, removed Eisen from committees in the closing days of the two-year session. In a statement, they said threats or suggestions of violence in politics are never acceptable, including "when the public officials open the door to violent behavior and refuse to condemn it. We must do better."

The 16 electors later cast their votes for Biden during a meeting also attended by top state Democrats such as Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and Attorney General Dana Nessel.

The Capitol was closed to the public due to coronavirus restrictions because neither the House nor Senate were in session, though some Republicans, including Eisen, were critical of the closure on the day of the Electoral College meeting. Legislative offices in the Statehouse and nearby buildings also were closed due to "credible threats of violence," a Senate spokeswoman said.

Eisen was among 15 Republican legislators and four GOP congressmen in Michigan who signed onto a Texas lawsuit asking the U.S. Supreme Court to set aside votes in four states due to baseless claims of widespread fraud, including in Michigan. The court dismissed the case.

Michigan's Republican legislative leaders have said the Legislature followed state law in not overturning Biden's 154,000-vote victory in the state – a margin of 2.8 percentage points.

Eisen, a first-term legislator, issued a statement saying he regretted "confusion" over his remarks and no longer planned to go to the Capitol with a group that supports an alternative slate of would-be GOP electors. They were turned away from entering the Statehouse later Monday.

LAKESHORE

From page A3

"We're going to be watching the class sizes very carefully," he said.

During the meeting, Freeman said the data shows that schools are the safest places to be during the pandemic.

"Of the 3,000 students and staff in our schools each day, less than 1 percent have been identified as a positive or probable case in the first 10 weeks," he said.

He said in-person instruction is not contributing to the spread of COVID-19, according to the staff at the Berrien County Health Department, which he meets with weekly.

Freeman said that he hopes that all students can return to in-person learning in January after the holiday break.

High school students have been learning remotely since Nov. 18, when Michigan officials shut them down, with the goal of slowing the spread of the virus.

Freeman said data shows that in-person learning is not only safe, but important for academic achievement, especially for the younger students.

Preliminary NWEA test scores show that the largest decline in expected learning happened in grades 1-3. That drop is attributed to the sudden shift to remote learning in March, reported Vice President Kevin Bushu, chairman of the Administrative Affairs committee.

He said that students in grades 4-8 also demonstrated learning gaps, but they are doing better than expected.

Whitwam's final meeting

Lakeshore school board trustees gave high praise to Trustee Mark Whitwam during his final meeting Monday after being on the board for 18 years.

"You've been a tremendous mentor to me in my 11 years," Bushu said. "I always appreciated while you were president, your quiet, calm leadership style."

Whitwam was president for eight years until January 2019, when Jason Beckrow became president.

Whitwam did not seek re-election in November for the six-year seat. He stepped down as president so he could mentor the next president, Freeman said.

Beckrow said one of the first things Whitwam said to him when he started on the board eight years ago was that if the trustees put student achievement and safety first, board decisions would always be solid.

"I do my very best to channel you, even though we're in this new remote environment," he said.

Trustee Rachel Wade said that after a difficult expulsion hearing about a year ago, she thanked Bushu for the perspective he brought to the process.

"His response back to me was, … 'I learned it all from Mark,'" she said.

Trustee Griffin Ott said Whitwam is the "real deal."

Whitwam, a 1982 Lakeshore High School graduate, said the praise was humbling, appreciated – and "a little embarrassing."

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

BERRIEN COUNTY TRIAL COURT

Sentences

St. Joseph

Assault

Leondre Robinson, 43, of Colfax Avenue, Benton Harbor, 90 days in jail, credit for 10 days served, for domestic violence, second offense, an assault on a woman, June 12, 2019, in Benton Harbor.

Dante B. Parr, 35, of Colfax Avenue, Benton Harbor, 20 months to 6 years in prison, credit for 225 days served, $198 in costs and $400 in restitution for assault with a dangerous weapon, a firearm, April 12 in Benton Harbor. Parr was sentenced as a habitual offender.

David E. Deyber, 60, of River Ridge Court, St. Joseph, 180 days in jail, credit for 84 days served, $1,518 in fines and costs and 2 years probation for domestic violence, second offense, an assault on a woman, Aug. 31 in St. Joseph.

Child abuse

George B. Summerfield III, 28, of Bundy Road, Coloma, 150 days in jail, credit for 1 day served, $1,655 in fines and costs and 2 years probation for fourth-degree child abuse, abuse of a four-month-old child, Oct. 8, 2019, in Coloma Township.

Criminal sexual conduct

Kyle L. Gordon, 33, of Stickles Road, Three Oaks, 120 days in jail, credit for 2 days served, $2,998 in fines and costs and 5 years probation for attempted fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct with a 16-year-old girl between Jan. 1, 2010, and April 1, 2010, in Chikaming Township.

John Jr. Clay, 56, no permanent address, 150 months to 22 ½ years in prison, credit for 222 days served, and $198 in costs for third-degree criminal sexual conduct with an incapacitated person Oct. 19, 2019, in Benton Township. Clay was sentenced as a habitual offender.

Drugs

David A. Brown, 48, of McGuigan Street, Benton Harbor, 3-20 years in prison, credit for 376 days served, and $198 in costs for delivery/manufacture of narcotics, less than 50 grams cocaine, Nov. 5, 2015, in Benton Harbor.

Russell H. Walters, 63, of Parkway Drive, Benton Harbor, 240 days in jail, credit for 201 days served, $1,198 in fines and costs for possession of narcotics, less than 25 grams cocaine, Feb. 26 in Benton Harbor.

Weapons violation

Will O. Jakes, 27, of Jennings Avenue, Benton Harbor, two concurrent terms of 23 months to 5 years, credit for 33 days served, and $266 in costs for carrying a concealed weapon in an automobile and possession of a firearm by a felon Feb. 23 in Benton Harbor.

Johnny R. Harden Jr., 28, of Zoschke Road, Benton Harbor, two concurrent terms of 150 days in jail, credit for 3 days served, $2,418 in fines and costs, 2 years probation and forfeiture of a handgun for carrying a concealed weapon in an automobile and possession of a firearm by a felon Feb. 8 in Hagar Township.

Brandon M. Barr, 35, of Crown Point, Ind., 4 days in jail, credit for 4 days served, $1,458 in fines and costs, 2 years probation and forfeiture of a handgun for possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle Jan. 22 in Lincoln Township.

Niles

Drugs

Damon T. Goins, 46, of Woods Edge Drive, Niles, 63 days in jail, credit for 63 days served, for use of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, Oct. 6 in Niles Township; and a concurrent term of 1-2 years and $198 in costs for assaulting/resisting and obstructing Buchanan Police Officer Michael Horton Aug. 30 in Buchanan.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Physicist Georg —
4 Companion
8 Tiny legume
11 Chits
13 OPEC member
14 Work unit
15 Key maker
17 Charlotte of "Bananas"
18 Round object
19 Touches
21 "— be an honor"
22 One, to Conchita
23 Preferred strategy (2 wds.)
26 Pinball palace
29 Ca++ and Na+
30 Trig function
31 Khan of note
33 "The Gold Bug" author
34 Knights
35 Thick, flat piece
36 Plunks
38 They turn litmus red
39 — Diego
40 Double helix
41 Pinch
44 Wholly absorbed
48 Auricle
49 Yale, Brown et al. (2 wds.)
52 Back when
53 Without the ice
54 Batter's ploy
55 Guitarist — Paul
56 Emeralds
57 Affirmative

DOWN
1 Old masters
2 Circus prop
3 "— Ado About Nothing"
4 Said with gestures
5 Uris hero
6 Do lacework
7 Touch up
8 Amazon source
9 Latin 101 word
10 Birthday counts
12 Balls of yarn
16 Tijuana Ms.
20 Sheep's cry
22 Tall vases
23 Apple seed
24 Booty
25 Once again
26 Melodies
27 "Soft Watches" painter
28 Hoople expletive
30 Indication
32 Crunch targets
34 Twisting and turning
35 Pharaoh's amulet
37 Film exp. index
38 Archer of filmdom
40 Shoulder muscles
41 Bluish-green
42 Salary
43 Psyche's beloved
45 Water, in Tijuana
46 Weak
47 Chapeau's place
50 Peace sign
51 Edible tuber

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	A	V	■	E	L	A	N	■	Z	E	A	L
I	C	E	■	N	O	D	E	■	I	N	C	A
N	O	G	■	J	O	S	E	■	L	O	C	K
C	R	A	Y	O	N	■	D	I	L	U	T	E
E	N	N	U	I	■	■	■	S	S	N	■	■
■	■	■	K	N	I	G	H	T	■	C	O	W
A	U	T	O	■	F	R	I	■	D	E	K	E
S	T	A	N	■	S	I	C	■	A	S	S	T
H	E	X	■	C	O	N	K	E	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	R	C	■	■	■	A	D	A	G	E
R	E	T	A	I	L	■	F	R	Y	E	R	S
A	L	I	T	■	U	P	O	N	■	S	A	S
F	L	O	E	■	S	I	R	E	■	O	D	E
T	E	N	D	■	H	E	A	D	■	P	E	N

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NLKPA

CLXEE

SOLTCE

MORHEC

This software is great! I almost forgot to include the frog's toe.
Every witch uses it now.
You know I'm not really a frog, right?
THE INCREASINGLY FORGETFUL WITCH USED SOFTWARE ON HER COMPUTER THAT HAD A ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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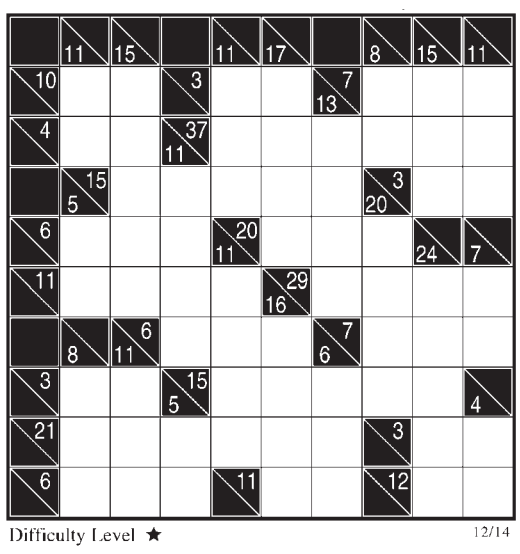
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

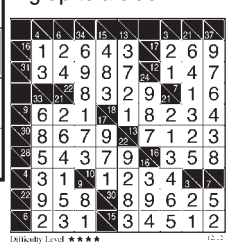
Saturday's Jumbles: PLUCK DIMLY IODINE FLAVOR
Answer: After "Time" magazine debuted in 1923, new issues were printed — PERIODICALLY

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★ 12/14

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

Mike Lawrence, who is a three-time Bermuda Bowl world team champion, has written several excellent books. The title of his latest, "Insights on Bridge: Bidding, Play and Defense, Book 2" (Baron Barclay Bridge Supply) is self-explanatory. In each of 96 short chapters, Lawrence discusses one hand (a bidding problem) or two hands (declarer-play or defense). He says that these books "won't make you an expert. But (they) will start you on the path to being a good player and good partner."

In this deal from the book, cover the East and South hands. Against three no-trump, West leads his fourth-highest spade four: 10, three, eight. Declarer then plays a heart to his queen. How should West defend?

A good rule for authors is to keep the auction simple if it is a card-play deal – unless the bidding supplies a key piece of information for declarer or a defender.

West should start by checking the high-card points. He has 10, dummy holds 12, and declarer indicated 15-17. That leaves 1-3 for East. He probably has one club honor: the jack, queen or king.

Next, usually third hand plays high, but when he cannot do that, he gives count. Here, East's lowest spade, the three, showed an odd number of spades: one or three. If he started with a singleton, the contract is surely cast-iron. But if he began with three spades, declarer is down to a singleton ace. West should win the second trick with his heart king and lead the spade two. When South's ace does come fluttering down, West waits to get in with his club ace to cash three spade winners.

Available from baronbarclay.com.

North 12-14-20
♠ Q J 10
♥ 8 7 2
♦ A K Q 8
♣ 9 8 3

West
♠ K 9 7 4 2
♥ K 6
♦ 6 5 2
♣ A 10 6

East
♠ 6 5 3
♥ 10 9 5 4 3
♦ 4 3
♣ J 7 5

South
♠ A 8
♥ A Q J
♦ J 10 9 7
♣ K Q 4 2

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 4

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

5			2		7	3	6	
	2	6		3		5	9	
				9	5	2		7
		1			4			2
		5	9	1	2	4		
2			5			9		
9		7	1	2				
	1	8		5		6	2	
	3	2	8		9			5

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

1	8	7	2	4	6	9	5	3
2	6	3	8	9	5	7	4	1
4	9	5	1	7	3	2	6	8
8	5	2	3	1	4	6	7	9
6	1	9	7	8	2	4	3	5
3	7	4	5	6	9	8	1	2
9	3	1	4	2	7	5	8	6
7	2	8	6	5	1	3	9	4
5	4	6	9	3	8	1	2	7

OBITUARIES

Crag Harold Bush

March 14, 1942 – Dec. 1, 2020

Crag Harold Bush, 78, of Kentwood, Mich., passed away peacefully Dec. 1, 2020, at his childhood cottage in Benton Harbor.

Crag was born on March 14, 1942, in Benton Harbor to Harold and Annabelle (Newhouse) Bush. While attending high school in Benton Harbor, he met Carolyn Perkins and later married her on June 20, 1964. Together, they moved to the Grand Rapids area where Crag found employment with GM. He stayed with GM for almost 40 years.

Crag's children remember him as being a very involved father. He was a dedicated scout leader, coach, mentor, and father figure to all of his "other children." Crag and Carolyn shared many adventures in their travels across the U.S. and several trips to Europe. He was an avid Corvette enthusiast, fisherman and hunter. Crag was a kind, loving, gentle man.

Crag will be missed by his wife, Carolyn, of 56 years; and his children: Cindy (Brian) Stauffer, Chad Bush, and Curt (Aaran) Bush; his grandchildren: Jordan (Jonathan) Martinez and Madison Stauffer; and his sister, Michelle (the late Bob) Robinson. He is survived by brothers-in-law, Don Perkins, Ron (Peggy) Perkins; plus nieces, nephews, cousins, and his beloved yorkie, named Honey Girl.

He is preceded in death by his parents: Harold and Annabelle (Newhouse) Bush.

Service to honor Crag's life will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Brian Bush Memorial Putt for life at http://www.puttforlife.com. Those wishing to leave an online condolence for the family may do so at http://www.starks-menchinger.com.

Robert Davis

Jan. 28, 1937 – Dec. 10, 2020

Bob was born on Jan. 28, 1937, to George and Gladys Davis in Coloma. He grew up in Watervliet, where he attended school and lettered in football, basketball and baseball in high school. He was a starter for the 1954 basketball team that played in the state semi-finals. Bob's love of playing sports never ended. He was an avid bowler and was part owner and manager of Coloma Lanes. In 1995 he was inducted into the Blossomland Men's Bowling Association Hall of Fame. In his retirement Bob enjoyed golf, bowling, fishing and gardening.

Bob's greatest joy came in spending time with his loving family, which includes his high school sweetheart and wife of 64 years, Alora (Howard) Davis; two sons: Keith (Uma) Davis of Indiana, and Kenneth (Patcharin) Davis of New Jersey; six grandchildren: Jonathon Davis, Sarah Davis, Joshua Davis, Kyle Davis, Kevin Davis, and Stephanie (Huff) Blocker; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Bob died Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph, after a brief illness.

A son, Kevin Davis; parents: George and Gladys (Disbrow) Davis; and a sister, Rose Marie Richardson precede Bob in death. Friends may visit with Bob's family from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, at Hutchins Funeral Home in Watervliet. There will be a private burial following visitation in Watervliet Cemetery.

You are invited to leave a message of comfort for Bob's family at hutchins funeral.com. Memorial donations can be made to the Hope Resources in Coloma.

Death notices

Norma Arnold, 89, of Niles died Dec. 12, 2020, at home. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

James Bracker, 89, of Niles died Dec. 11, 2020, at Riveridge Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center in Niles. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Connie (Alti) Cassidy, 80, of St. Joseph died Dec. 14, 2020, at home. Starks & Menchinger Chapel & Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450

Robert Davis, 83, of Coloma died Dec.10, 2020. Hutchins Funeral Home, Watervliet, 463-3811.

Marion Milnikel, 95, of St. Joseph died Dec. 11, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

William Queen, 54, of Watervliet died Dec. 1, 2020. Hutchins Funeral Home, Watervliet, 463-3811.

Majorie Kathryn Robinson, 85, of Hartford died Dec. 1, 2020. Calvin-Leonard Funeral Home, Hartford, 621-4101.

Betty Jean Ross, 94, of Coldwater, Mich., died Dec. 9, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Phyllis Marie VanDyke, 96, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 10, 2020, at The Willows Assisted Living in St. Joseph. Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Benton Harbor, 926-9440.

Robert Williams, 71, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 8, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Marion Milnikel

Aug. 1, 1925 – Dec. 11, 2020

Marion Milnikel, 95, of St. Joseph peacefully passed away into the arms of her Lord and Savior on Friday, Dec. 11, 2020, at her home.

Due to COVID-19 a private celebration of life eternal will be at Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Joseph, with the Rev. Michael Roth officiating. Burial will follow at Riverview Cemetery in St. Joseph.

Memorials may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church or the Lutheran Hour Ministries. Those wishing to share a memory of Marion online may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Marion was born on Aug. 1, 1925, in St. Joseph to Matthew and Ida (Berk) Stockman. She graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1943.

On Feb. 12, 1949, she married Eugene Milnikel at Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Joseph. Marion was a lifelong member of Trinity where she sang in the choir. She also enjoyed singing with the St. Joseph Monday Musical Club. Marion was a gracious, warm, generous, loving person, a caregiver to her core. She found much joy working in her garden with an incredible gift for helping plants bloom and grow.

Marion was made a child of her Heavenly Father in baptism on Aug. 23, 1925. She never forgot she was a forgiven sinner through the death and resurrection of her Savior, Jesus Christ. Marion allowed her Lord to use her to meet His purposes and she is alive now in the nearer presence of her dear Lord.

Marion is survived by her son, Thomas (Jenifer) Milnikel; grandchildren: Sara (Stacey) Charron-Milnikel: and great-grandchildren: Emmett and Ivy Charron-Milnikel, and Paul (Haylee) Milnikel; and great-grandchild, Grantner Milnikel.

Marion was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and siblings: Allen Stockman, Robert Stockman and Elaine Jenkins.

Robert Williams

May 5, 1949 – Dec. 8, 2020

Robert "Bob" Williams, 71, of Benton Harbor passed away Tuesday, Dec, 8, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph.

A celebration of life service will be at a later date. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Those wishing to share a memory of Bob online may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Bob was born May 5, 1949, in Elizabethtown, Ky., to Willard and Darlene (Voudry) Williams.

On Feb. 14, 1980, he married Diana (Arnt) Collins in Benton Harbor.

Bob was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend who held numerous titles throughout the state as a veterans advocate. Bob served with the 101st Airborne in Vietnam, where he earned two Purple Hearts, and he went on to serve in the 82nd Airborne. Since Vietnam he has lived with Agent Orange.

He was appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to the trust fund, where he became vice chairman of the Veteran's Trust Fund for the state of Michigan, where he helped to direct funds to veterans in need of support. Bob was a leader in the VFW Fruit Belt Post 1137, American Legion Post 362, North Berrien Military Rites Team, Lest We Forget, and many other organizations. One of Bob's best memories was when he helped place the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Bob was also a member of the St. John & Bernard Parish, Knights of Columbus and the Benton Harbor Moose Lodge 1570. He was a man of the Lord. He loved to spend time with his family, especially his grandchildren, and was an avid Notre Dame Fan.

Bob is survived by wife, Diana Williams; children: Jeffery Williams, Michele Collins, Michael (Kristina) Collins and Michelle Ritter; grandchildren: Crystal (A.J. Crowe) Collins and Courtney Collins; great-grandchildren: Aubrey Crowe, Lexi Collins, Arik Williams, Andrew Fulkerson, Ayden Fulkerson, Beau Wutzke and Kaleb Wutzke; sister, Jan (Duane) Avery; niece, Brandi (Danny) Todd; sister-in-law, Vicki Williams; two brothers by another mother: Tom and John Street; and the George Gaunder family, who took Bob in under their wings.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents; and siblings: Ronald, Beverly and Joann.

Marjorie Kathryn Robinson

Nov. 18, 1935 – Dec. 1, 2020

Marjorie Kathryn Robinson, 85, of Hartford was born Nov. 18, 1935, in St. Joseph, the daughter of Henry and Frances (Vandersee) Doroh.

Marge as she was known passed away Dec. 1, 2020, at Graceway at Countryside Assistant Living & Nursing Home, South Haven.

Marge was formerly employed at the Watervliet Paper Mill and at Harding's Friendly Market in Hartford.

On Nov. 6, 1954, Marge and Glen Robinson were united in marriage. Glen passed away Nov. 30, 2014. Also preceding Marge in passing was a sister, Virginia Name; and a brother, George Doroh.

Marge is survived by her daughter, April (William) Waterkamp; grandchildren: Quentin Waterkamp, Kendel (Louis) Vomastek; and a great-grandson, Vincent; a sister, Barbara McGuire of Oklahoma City, Okla.; and three brothers: Eugene Doroh of Orville, Calif., James (Loretta) Doroh of Mattawan and Robert Doroh of Decatur.

Due to the current COVID situation, a private burial has taken place and Marge was laid to rest next to Glen, in Maple Hill Cemetery, Hartford. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.calvin-leonardfh.com.

William Queen

May 29, 1966 – Dec. 1, 2020

Bill's life began May 29, 1966, in Watervliet. He was a lifetime area resident.

He worked for various area factories. He was a gifted cook, and shared his talents with Jazmine's Restaurant in Watervliet.

Bill enjoyed playing dominos, shooting pool and trying his luck at Texas Hold'em. However his favorite pastime was going fishing with his buddy every chance he got.

Bill died unexpectedly Dec. 1, 2020. He leaves behind his wife, Julia Queen; three siblings: James Russell, Michelle Russell, and Christy (James Martin) Russell; and several nieces and nephews to cherish his memory.

Bill is preceded in death by his mother, Shirley Russell.

Hutchins Funeral Home in Watervliet is assisting Bill's family with cremation arrangements. His family will celebrate his life with a memorial service at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Bill's family. You are invited to leave a message of comfort or a donation for his funeral expenses at hutchinsfuneral.com.

Endangered-species decision expected on beloved butterfly

By JOHN FLESHER and ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press

Carolyn Kaster / AP file

A fresh monarch butterfly rests on a Swedish Ivy plant soon after emerging in Washington on June 2, 2019. Trump administration officials are expected to say this week whether the monarch butterfly should receive federal designation as a threatened species.

Trump administration officials are expected to say this week whether the monarch butterfly, a colorful and familiar backyard visitor now caught in a global extinction crisis, should receive federal designation as a threatened species.

Stepped-up use of farm herbicides, climate change and destruction of milkweed plants on which they depend have caused a massive decline of the orange-and-black butterflies, which long have flitted over meadows, gardens and wetlands across the U.S.

The drop-off that started in the mid-1990s has spurred a preservation campaign involving schoolchildren, homeowners and landowners, conservation groups, governments and businesses.

Some contend those efforts are enough to save the monarch without federal regulation. But environmental groups say protection under the Endangered Species Act is essential – particularly for populations in the West, where last year fewer than 30,000 remained of the millions that spent winters in California's coastal groves during the 1980s.

This year's count, though not yet official, is expected to show only about 2,000 there, said Sarina Jepsen, director of the endangered species program at the Xerces Society conservation group.

"We may be witnessing the collapse of the monarch population in the West," Jepsen said.

Scientists separately estimate up to an 80 percent monarch decline since the mid-1990s in the eastern U.S., although numbers there have shown a recent uptick.

The Trump administration has rolled back protections for endangered and threatened species in its push for deregulation, even as the United Nations says 1 million species – one of every eight on Earth – face extinction because of climate change, development and other human causes.

Under a court agreement, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must respond by Tuesday to a 2014 petition from conservation groups on behalf of the monarch.

The agency could propose or decline to list the butterfly as threatened, which means likely to become in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or much of its range. Or it could find that a such listing is deserved but other species have a higher priority, which might delay action indefinitely.

A recommendation to designate the butterfly as threatened would be followed by a yearlong period to take public comment and reach a final decision.

Listing it "would guarantee that the monarch would get a comprehensive recovery plan and ongoing funding," said Tierra Curry, a senior scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity. "The monarch is so threatened that this is the only prudent thing to do."

If the status is granted, federal agencies would have to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service about potential harm to monarchs from actions proposed for government funding or permitting, such as expanding interstate highways. The service would prescribe other measures in a regulation tailored specifically for the butterfly.

Monarchs in southern Canada and the eastern U.S. migrate by the millions to mountainous areas of Mexico each winter, while those west of the continental divide head to coastal California. They congregate so thickly in forests that scientists can estimate their numbers through aerial inspections of trees with an orange hue.

Worsening droughts are reducing the number that survive the journey south for winter, Taylor said, while rising temperatures prompt the butterflies to leave their wintering grounds too soon, damaging reproduction. As the forests dry out, wildfire risk worsens.

If habitat losses and climate change aren't slowed, "we aren't going to have a monarch migration in 30 years," Taylor said.

Environmental groups say 165 million acres of monarch habitat – an area the size of Texas – have been lost in the past 20 years to development or herbicide applications in cropland. They point to heavy farm use of Round Up, or glyphosate, in particular.

Genetically modified corn and soybeans can withstand the poisons, but they wipe out milkweed, on which the butterflies lay their eggs. Caterpillars feed only on milkweed leaves, while adults eat nectar from their flowers and pollinate the plants.

Federal protection for the monarch would draw stiff resistance from agriculture groups concerned that habitat protection rules might interfere with farm operations.

Milkweed can reduce crop yields and sicken livestock that eat it, "so farmers have spent decades trying to get rid of it," said Laura Campbell of the Michigan Farm Bureau, which has participated in a statewide monarch recovery program. "It's a hard sell to tell farmers, 'Hey, you need to start planting milkweed again.'"

Getting it straight

The Herald-Palladium makes every effort to ensure accuracy in its stories.

If you think there is an error, please contact the editor of the page on which it occurred. If you are unsure of whom to contact, call Local News Editor Dale Brewer at 429-3797.

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

1995 – 25 years ago

Brandywine fifth grader John Marazita's dream of having the painted turtle declared the state reptile is about to become a reality. Earlier this week, the Michigan Senate voted overwhelmingly in favor of naming the painted turtle the state reptile and sent the measure to Gov. John Engler for his signature.

1985 – 35 years ago

Seven members of the Four Flags 4-H Club in Watervliet and two club leaders helped spread some Christmas cheer recently at Tri-City Village, a senior citizen apartment building that was previously Watervliet Hospital. Mary Lou Long, Berrien County 4-H program assistant, said the 4-H'ers helped residents make Santa Claus head decorations to hang on the wall in their apartments. Mrs. Long said this was the first time the club did such a project at Tri-City, but now plans other projects there.

1970 – 50 years ago

Covert Girl Scout troop representatives have planted a community Christmas tree in the park on the south corner of M-140 and Lake Street to serve as a living reminder of the meaning of Christmas. Strings of lights were donated by K-Mart and Shoppers Fair of Benton Harbor, and more strings will be needed in future years. The hole for the tree was dug by Covert Volunteer Fire Department members, and Marvin Cole brought it to the site and helped with the planting.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 15, the 350th day of 2020. There are 16 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Dec. 15, 2013, Nelson Mandela was laid to rest in his childhood hometown, ending a 10-day mourning period for South Africa's first Black president.

On this date:

In 1791, the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, went into effect following ratification by Virginia.

In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, South Dakota, during a confrontation with Indian police.

In 1965, two U.S. manned spacecraft, Gemini 6A and Gemini 7, maneuvered toward each other while in orbit, at one point coming as close as one foot.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter announced he would grant diplomatic recognition to Communist China on New Year's Day and sever official relations with Taiwan.

In 1989, a popular uprising began in Romania that resulted in the downfall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

In 2000, the long-troubled Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine was closed for good.

In 2001, with a crash and a large dust cloud, a 50-foot tall section of steel – the last standing piece of the World Trade Center's facade – was brought down in New York.

In 2016, a federal jury in Charleston, South Carolina, convicted Dylann Roof of slaughtering nine Black church members who had welcomed him to their Bible study.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
33°	26°	36° / 24°	35° / 27°	40° / 32°	41° / 33°

Local Outlook

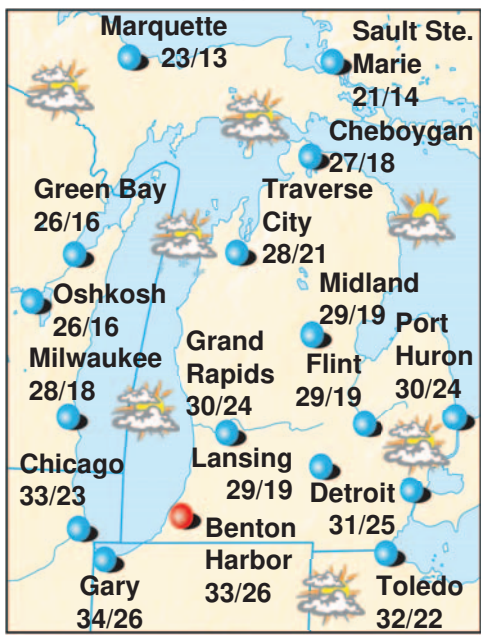
Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 33°, humidity of 57%. East northeast wind 7 mph. Expect cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 26°. East wind 7 to 10 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 17°.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise ..... 8:07 a.m.
Sunset ..... 5:14 p.m.
Moonrise ..... 9:14 a.m.
Moonset ..... 6:17 p.m.

First 12/21 · Full 12/29 · Last 1/6 · New 1/13

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	34°
Low	23°
Normal High	35°
Normal Low	22°
Record High	63° in 2015
Record Low	0° in 2016

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	1.18"
Normal for month	1.09"
Year to date	33.21"
Normal Year to date	36.42"

Air Quality

Yesterday 38
Main Offender ..... Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50 ..... Good
51-100 ..... Moderate
101-150 .... Sensitive
151-200 .. Unhealthy

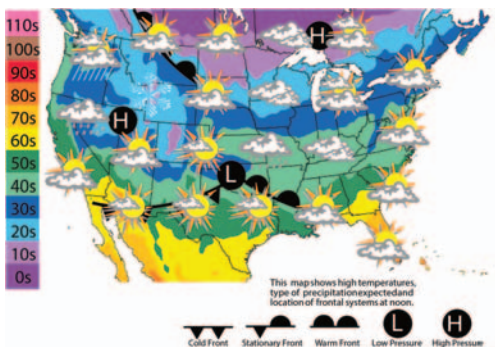
Weather Trivia

How thick is the South Polar ice cap?

Answer: Estimates place its depth at 15,670 feet thick.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Dec. 15, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, Variable winds less than 5 kt. Partly sunny. Waves 1 to 2 ft. Water temperature 34 degrees. Tonight, E wind 9 to 13 kt. Mostly cloudy. Waves 1 ft or less.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers, highs in the 20s. Southwest wind 8 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday with highs in the 20s and 30s. Southeast wind 6 to 9 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with highs in the 20s and 30s. East northeast wind 7 mph. Expect cloudy skies Wednesday with isolated snow, highs in the 30s. East northeast wind 7 to 10 mph.

Poll: Virus concerns stable as cases spike

By STEPHEN GROVES and HANNAH FINGERHUT
Associated Press

Robert F. Bukaty / AP file

A health care worker wears personal protective equipment as she speaks with a patient at a mobile testing location for COVID-19 in Auburn, Maine, on Dec. 8. A survey from the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds about 4 in 10 Americans say they are extremely or very worried about themselves or a family member being infected with the virus.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — Deaths from the coronavirus pandemic are spiking across the country, yet a new poll finds little increase in alarm among Americans about COVID-19 infections and no significant change in opinion about how the government should act to slow the spread.

The survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds about 4 in 10 Americans say they are extremely or very worried about themselves or a family member being infected with the virus, about the same as in October and slightly lower than in surveys conducted in March and in July. Stable majorities continue to favor requirements that people wear masks and limit the size of gatherings.

The risks of infection are greater than ever across broad swaths of the country – more than 1 million people tested positive for the coronavirus over five days last week. The surge has led to record numbers of daily virus deaths as the U.S. nears 300,000 people dying from the virus over the course of the pandemic.

The nation's top health officials have pleaded with Americans to redouble their efforts to prevent infections, especially during the holidays. Roughly three-quarters of Americans say they're at least somewhat worried about the virus, a figure that's about the same as in October. In March and then again in July, about half of Americans were highly worried.

"We know our risks. We see what's happening. We see people dying," said Sarah Totta, a 36-year-old from Kansas City, Missouri. "But to be honest, I think we knew this was coming in the winter, and I just think you have to manage the risks."

Support for stay-at-home orders peaked in April, with about 8 in 10 in favor, and has steadily dipped since. Fifty percent now support requiring Americans to stay home except for essential errands, up somewhat from 44 percent in October. Now 45 percent favor closing bars and restaurants, just slightly higher than 41 percent two months ago. About a third of Americans oppose both steps.

Totta, a Republican, viewed forced closures as a last resort to be taken only when hospitals become overburdened. She said she would prefer that governments take an "empowering rather than controlling" approach but acknowledged her area could have benefited from a lockdown in the fall as the Midwest saw case counts rise.

The survey's findings highlight the stark differences between how Republicans and Democrats view the pandemic. Concern about the virus and support for restrictions remain overwhelming among Democrats. About 9 in 10 are at least somewhat worried about infections, compared with about 6 in 10 Republicans.

As California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, this month took his most aggressive actions since the spring to try to prevent hospitals from being overwhelmed with patients, 26-year-old Lisa Main, who works in sales at a hotel, worried what effect it would have on the economy.

"In complete honesty, I think this pandemic is kind of blown out of proportion," said Main, who is a Republican. "I went to a wedding, and no one's gotten sick from that."

Meanwhile, Republican South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem has derided mask mandates, even as her state suffers through the nation's highest rate of deaths per capita in recent weeks. To defend her approach, Noem has pointed out that the virus is running rampant even in states where Democratic governors such as Newsom have issued strict orders.

"I hate that the coronavirus has turned political, but it has," Totta said.

In Florida, where Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has stridently opposed ordering bars and restaurants to close, 26-year-old Lewis Venegas, an independent, felt frustrated at seeing cases increase, fearing his mother and stepmother are vulnerable. He said it's impossible to stay socially distanced from people at the Walmart store in Miami where he works, though most people wear masks.

The fears of the pandemic have at times become overwhelming, he said: "I got to the point where I was so scared that I just started crying uncontrollably."

Support for requirements that would limit interactions still has broad support from Americans overall. Roughly two-thirds favor restricting gatherings to 10 people or fewer. And three-quarters favor requiring people to wear masks when around others outside their homes.

About 9 in 10 Democrats support a mask mandate and a limit on the size of gatherings. About three-quarters support stay-home orders, up somewhat from about 6 in 10 in October. And 66 percent think bars and restaurants should be closed, an uptick from 56 percent two months ago.

About 6 in 10 Republicans oppose stay-home orders and bar and restaurant closures. A slim majority, 55 percent, support a mask mandate, while 26 percent are opposed. Opposition to stay-home orders, limits on gatherings and bar and restaurant closures has grown steadily among Republicans over the course of the pandemic.

COVID-19

From page A1

election, wrote in his Monday Facebook post that he had worked with Richards right up to Thanksgiving, "where from his hospital bed he was still more concerned about making sure city business was being properly handled than his own health."

"In the time of our short friendship I believe that Dave was misunderstood by much of our public. His desire to work with me was not convenient or superficial, and I felt it sincere and it came from a newfound excitement and a love of public service," Humphrey's post continued. "Nowhere was this more apparent to me than the relationships he forged at City Hall, where he was a beloved co-worker by our administrative staff who are now all grieving."

Dave Johnson / For The Herald-Palladium

New Buffalo police and fire vehicles pass by New Buffalo City Hall on Monday in a tribute to City Manager David Richards, who died over the weekend from complications from COVID-19.

Police Chief Rich Killips is serving as acting city manager. He was appointed to the post on Dec. 7 by city council members, with Richards severely sick at the time.

WENGER

From page A1

that she wanted the kids to have her same experience – her school, her community," he said.

In addition, now they live only three blocks from his wife's parents.

Wenger recently talked with Staff Writer Louise Wrege about his life.

Why did you decide to run for president of Stevensville?

The first interest was to run as a trustee. I wanted to be part of the community a little bit more. I wanted to serve a community that I really enjoy. Once (former president) Steve (Slavicek) announced that he wasn't going to run again, there were talks with the other trustees and nobody wanted to step up to that role. I was asked if that was something that I would consider.

Chris Mason was the one who first approached me. He thought that my demeanor and my ability to approach others and my outgoing personality would lend well to connecting with the community and residents and business leaders.

How has trying new things helped you?

It gives me confidence. If you just assume you can't do it, then you probably won't be successful. But once you complete one task, and you figure out the nuances of it, then you get an additional level of confidence that you didn't have before and you're willing to take on additional challenges.

This is not something that I expected to be doing – running for president. But I'm excited about it. I'm generally nervous, but I'm confident that I'll do a good job and I'll be responsive to the residents and hopefully, be successful in the two-year term.

What was it like moving back to Southwest Michigan?

It's challenging moving from a large city to a much, much, much smaller community. For the most part, being a foodie that I am, was having the same amount of restaurants at my disposal. The good thing, the jobs that I have, I usually work remote. I haven't worked in an office in almost 20 years. Really, I could live anywhere I wanted.

There were a couple of early things that I loved when we moved here. We frequented Round Barn Winery. That was a great family friendly place to sit out and listen to live music and have a sangria or beer or wine. The kids can run around. That was great.

When Watermark opened up a number of years later, that was fantastic because it is right within the community. And again, they started off as a family-oriented venue. I'm very thankful that they have that.

There are many community places that are family-friendly.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

GETTY

From page A1

shrubs and trees and cleaning up rubbish.

A street sign has been delivered to Hutchinson and a letter of recognition will be sent to him.

Several friends, family members, trooper members and community leaders helped him with the project, which took 117 man-hours to complete.

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, Twitter @HPSwidwa

MERGER

From page A1

year between BB&T and SunTrust, which merged together to become Trust Bank. Earlier this year, Pennsylvania's PNC Financial Services Group Inc. announced it would buy the U.S. operations of Spanish bank BBVA.

Under the agreement announced Monday, Huntington's Steinour will become chairman, president and CEO of the combined holding company and CEO of the bank operations. TCF's Torgow will become chairman of the board.

The deal is expected to close next year in the second quarter, subject to regulatory approval.

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hp SPORTS

Bears look to stay in contention after ending 6-game slide

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — With calls for sweeping changes getting louder by the loss, the Chicago Bears can breathe a little easier at least.

Their six-game skid ended with a 36-7 romp over Deshaun Watson and the Houston Texans on Sunday. And as hard as it seems to believe, the Bears are still in contention for a playoff spot.

"Our guys came out and they played with a ton of energy and passion," coach Matt Nagy said Monday. "And this was the first time this season really that we put the three phases together, which was great. ... we're now in a position to where we need to do whatever we can to give ourselves an opportunity to get into the playoffs – however we do that."

The Bears (6-7) snapped a six-game skid, their worst since the 2002 team tied a franchise record by dropping eight straight, and are banking on the win over Houston (4-9) to help them turn around what was looking like a lost season. The game was the first of three in a row against teams below .500.

Chicago visits Minnesota (6-7) and Jacksonville (1-12) before the finale against NFC North champion Green Bay (10-3) at Soldier Field on Jan. 3.

The win over Houston was just what the Bears needed.

Mitchell Trubisky outplayed Watson, throwing for three touchdowns in their first meeting since they entered the league in 2017. David Montgomery ran for an 80-yard touchdown on Chicago's first play from scrimmage. Khalil Mack sacked Watson for a safety, helping the Bears pick up their first win since Week 6 against Carolina.

"It feels good," Trubisky said. "I think we really needed that as a team. Just the way we've been working the last couple weeks, after a win like that it feels all the work is starting to pay off."

What's working

The offensive line. The Bears have 430 yards rushing over the past three games. A big reason is their revamped line.

They inserted Sam Mustipher at center while moving

See BEARS, page B2

Charles Rex Arbogast / AP

Houston quarterback Deshaun Watson (4) is sacked for a safety by Chicago's Khalil Mack (52) during the first half of Sunday's game.

Lions will hold out hope that Stafford can play

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

The Detroit Lions will hold out hope as long as they can that Matthew Stafford can play at Tennessee with banged-up ribs.

"We'll take it until the end of the week," interim coach Darrell Bevell said Monday. "He's a little bit better this afternoon than he was this morning."

Stafford was knocked out of Sunday's 31-27 setback to Green Bay with a rib injury. The veteran quarterback appeared to get hurt while diving for a first down at the Packers 5 midway through the fourth quarter.

Stafford stayed in the game to hand off to Kerryon Johnson for a touchdown on the next play, but was evaluated by the team's medical staff on the sideline. Stafford went toward the locker room, returned to throw passes near the benches before going back out of sight.

Detroit (5-8) probably will keep Stafford out completely or limited at most during practice leading up to Sunday's road game against the AFC South-leading Tennessee Titans (9-4) knowing he has played through various ailments in the past.

"That guy loves to play football and it's going to take a lot to keep him out," Bevell said.

Chase Daniel replaced Stafford against Green Bay and led a drive that ended with Matt Prater's 32-yard field goal with 1:49 left to pull Detroit within seven points. The team's third-string quarterback is David Blough, who started five games last year with Detroit after it acquired the undrafted rookie from the Cleveland Browns.

What's working

The Lions are competing for four quarters under Bevell after not appearing to do so for fired coach Matt Patricia's last month.

Detroit looked as if it might get routed when Aaron Rodgers opened the game not missing a throw on two touchdown drives. The Lions kept it competitive and were inches away from recovering an onside kick with 1:49 left. The previous week in Bevell's debut as interim coach, they rallied from a 10-point, fourth-quarter deficit to win at Chicago.

"We're just never going to quit," receiver and kick returner Jamal Agnew said.

Detroit lost its last four games with Patricia by at least two touchdowns and were shut out for the first time in more than a decade in one of those defeats.

What needs help

The secondary is shaky at best. Players who were expected to be backups have been pushed into starting roles with injuries to rookie Jeff Okudah and veteran Desmond Trufant.

Detroit's defensive backs are struggling to stay with receivers and it doesn't seem to matter if they're facing a two-time MVP or embattled Bears quarterback Mitchell Trubisky.

Stock up

The Lions have missed on

See LIONS, page B2

Matt Cashore / AP

Notre Dame safety Shaun Crawford (20) celebrates after Notre Dame defeated Clemson 47-40 in two overtimes during a Nov. 7 game.

Title time in ACC

Notre Dame, Clemson full strength heading into ACC championship

By PETE IACOBELLI
Associated Press

No. 2 Notre Dame and No. 4 Clemson expect to be rested and at full strength when they meet in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship on Saturday.

That wasn't the case when the teams first played a month ago, and adds even more intrigue to the much-anticipated rematch.

The Fighting Irish (10-0, 9-0 ACC; No. 2 CFP) rallied to defeat the Tigers 47-40 in a drama-filled, double-overtime showdown last month.

This time, though, Clemson (9-1, 8-1; No. 3 CFP) will have several players back, including Heisman Trophy contender Trevor Lawrence. The quarterback missed the first matchup, forced to watch from the sidelines after testing positive for COVID-19.

Notre Dame has had to shuffle its talented and massive offensive line the past few weeks because of injuries.

Right guard Tommy Kraemer was the ACC offensive lineman of the week after Notre Dame beat Boston College on Nov. 14, but missed the following week against North Carolina and saw limited action against Syracuse in the regular-season finale.

Defensive lineman Jayson Adamilola wasn't on the field for the Fighting Irish against Boston College or North Carolina, but practiced all last week.

The extra week off before the championship game has helped the Irish recover, coach Brian Kelly said. After talking with medical personnel, the coach said "we're in a green light situation" with those players.

Clemson is also giving the green light to linebacker James Skalski, a senior considered the heart and soul of the defense who had groin surgery in October and missed the game against the Fighting Irish.

Skalski was also limited the last time Clemson took the field, playing sparingly in a win over Virginia Tech on Dec. 5. But Clemson defensive coordinator Brent Venables believes Skalski will be a factor in the title game.

"We feel like he's gonna be close to, if not, 100%," Venables said.

Along with Skalski, Clemson's defense will have starting linebacker Mike Jones Jr. and defensive tackle Tyler Davis in the lineup, two contributors who weren't on the field against Notre Dame.

See IRISH, page B2

Cubs' decision to let Schwarber walk is another tough reminder for Heyward

By MARK GONZELES
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

Growing up as a fan of the Oakland Athletics helped Chicago Cubs infielder Nico Hoerner brace for the departure of Kyle Schwarber.

"I had (an autographed) ball with Mark Mulder, Barry Zito, Daniel Hudson and Dan Haren," Hoerner recalled Saturday, 10 days after the Cubs elected not to offer Schwarber a contract after six seasons in Chicago.

For veterans such as right fielder Jason Heyward, who was traded from his hometown Atlanta Braves to the St. Louis Cardinals one year before becoming a free agent after 2015, job security is precious with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting finances and payrolls across Major League Baseball.

"You ain't lying," said Heyward, who owns full no-trade rights because he has at least 10 years of service time, including the last five with one team – the Cubs. "It's a tough time to be a free agent right now.

"It's a tough time in general in the sports industry. Especially with the market they're talking about, not having fans and so on."

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down baseball in mid-March, the Cubs were assessing their future with Javier Baez, Kris Bryant, Anthony Rizzo and Schwarber due to become free agents after the 2021 season.

"Either way, we knew the business side was going to come from this group," Heyward said. "It happens with every group."

The ever-patient Heyward believes personnel changes can test the resolve of returneespositively, as they did last season when the Cubs returned to the playoffs for the fifth time in six seasons.

"A lot of guys got a taste of not making the playoffs (in 2019)," Heyward said. "Many guys had down years in 2020, and we still won (the National League Central), a tough division. You have new respect for that.

"That's where you've got to start. You want an opportunity to get into the postseason and go forward. That's the mindset. You can't win the World Series without getting into October. Next season, that's the immediate goal."

Pitcher Adbert Alzolay and Hoerner will get an opportunity for bigger roles after performing well in snippets.

"I think iron sharpens iron," Heyward said. "You're going to have David Ross as the manager. As far as I know, I'm still going to be here. I have a lot of say so in that. I want to be here. I want to continue to grow in this organization as they accepted me. I think we can do some special things here."

Heyward and Hoerner espoused the sentiment that Schwarber's departure was disappointing because of his contributions on the field and as a teammate.

Indians owner says name won't change in 2021

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Indians are changing their name – they just don't know to what or when.

Expressing that "it's time," owner Paul Dolan said that after months of internal discussions and meetings with groups, including Native Americans who have sought to have the team stop using a moniker many deem racist, the American League franchise is dropping the name it has been known by since 1915.

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press on Monday, Dolan said: "The name is no longer acceptable in our world."

Dolan said the team will continue to be called Indians until a new name is chosen. That "multi-stage" process is in its early stages and the team will play – and be branded – as the Indians at least through next season.

"We'll be the Indians in 2021 and then after that, it's a difficult and complex process to identify a new name and do all the things you do around activating that name," Dolan said. "We are going to work at as quick a pace as we can while doing it right.

"But we're not going to do something just for the sake of doing it. We're going to take the time we need to do it right."

Dolan said the team will not adopt an interim name until choosing its new one.

"We don't want to be the Cleveland Baseball Team or some other interim name," he said, adding he hopes the new name "will hopefully take us through multiple centuries."

Cleveland's move follows a similar decision by the NFL's Washington Football Team, previously known as the Redskins.

"It was a learning process for me and I think when fair-minded, open-minded people really look at it, think about it and maybe even spend some time studying it, I like to think they would come to the same conclusion: It's a name that had its time, but this is not the time now, and certainly going forward, the name is no longer acceptable in our world," Dolan said.

As Cleveland considers new names, Dolan said Tribe, the team's popular nickname for decades, has been ruled out.

Tony Dejak / AP

James Watson, left, protests before a baseball game between the Chicago White Sox and the Cleveland Indians on April 1, 2019, in Cleveland. The Cleveland Indians are changing their name – they just don't know to what or when.

See CLEVELAND, page B2

IRISH

From page B1

Tigers coach Dabo Swinney said the presence of his starters should bring more consistency to the defense that gave up 518 yards to the Irish last month.

"Hopefully, we can do a better job of not giving up some of the big plays," Swinney said.

That'll be a challenge if Irish quarterback Ian Book plays as well as he did the first time.

The Tigers led 33-26 in the final two minutes when Book connected on a 53-yard pass to Avery Davis to the Clemson 4. Book found Davis again three plays later for the tying TD with 22 seconds left.

Book threw for 310 yards and a touchdown. He also ran for 67 yards.

Lawrence was on the sideline in a mask the first time and watched his backup, DJ Uiagalelei throw for a freshman school record 439 yards in the loss.

Lawrence will be a steadying presence, said Clemson offensive coordinator Tony Elliott.

The QB returned to the field Nov. 28 against Pittsburgh and has been dominant in his two appearances since, throwing for 598 yards and three touchdowns in victories over Pittsburgh and Virginia Tech.

Book's not worried about who's behind center for the Tigers since Lawrence or Uiagalelei don't play defense.

"My job is to win as the quarterback," Book said in a radio interview. "Whoever the 11 guys were that they were going to put out there on defense is what we were going to go against."

Kelly also believes there can be too much made of any one player making a significant difference since football is a game of 11 people playing as one.

The Notre Dame coach said the returning player may do well "but three or four other guys aren't playing at the same level, it negates it."

LIONS

From page B1

a lot of draft picks, but T.J. Hockenson is not one of them. Detroit drafted him No. 8 overall last year and the former Iowa star is having one of the best seasons by a tight end in franchise history. Hockenson had six catches for 43 yards and a touchdown against the Packers. He has 58 receptions for 657 yards and six scores this season.

Stock down

Rodgers didn't waste any time picking on Lions cornerback Amani Oruwariye. Rodgers threw toward Oruwariye for a completion on his first snap and again on his first two touchdown passes.

Oruwariye, drafted by Detroit in the fifth round last year, was also called for holding on a third down in the pivotal third quarter.

Injured

Okudah is scheduled for surgery Tuesday for a groin injury that left him inactive against the Packers. The No. 3 overall pick in this year's draft had one interception this season and was healthy enough to play in just nine games.

Key number

1 – The New York Times reports the Lions have a 1 percent chance of making the playoffs, slim odds that were relayed to Bevell.

"So you're saying there's a chance," Bevell said.

Next steps

Detroit closes the regular season at Tennessee before hosting postseason-contending Tampa Bay (8-5) and Minnesota (6-7) at Ford Field.

BEARS

From page B1

Cody Whitehair to left guard, and going with Germain Ifedi at right tackle and Alex Bars at right guard.

The Bears ran for a season-high 169 yards against Houston. They had 140 last week against Detroit and 121 at Green Bay, after going seven straight games without reaching triple digits.

What needs help

The offense. The Bears still need to show they can move the ball and score consistently against better teams after doing so the past two weeks against defenses ranking among the NFL's worst.

They set a season scoring high on Sunday after matching one the previous week in a 34-30 loss to Detroit. They also went off for 410 yards after getting 389 against the Lions – their second and third-highest totals of the season.

They'll face a somewhat better defense at Minnesota this week and one of the league's worst when they visit Jacksonville. Green Bay ranked eighth overall through Sunday.

Stock up

RB David Montgomery. The second-year pro has 288 yards and three touchdowns rushing over the past three games. He ran for a season-high 113 yards on 11 carries against Houston, setting the tone with his 80-yard TD on the Bears' first play from scrimmage. That tied the fourth-longest run in franchise history.

"I wouldn't necessarily say anything's changed," he said. "I think we're starting to buy in more, really believe. Believe. It gets to a point where what do you really have to lose?"

Stock down

OLB Robert Quinn. The two-time Pro Bowl pick continues to be a nonfactor after signing with Chicago in the offseason. His lone sack came in his Bears debut against the New York Giants in Week 2.

Injured

Nagy had no update on CB Jaylon Johnson, who suffered a shoulder injury against Houston. He hopes to have him available this week.

Key number

7 – The number of sacks the Bears had on Sunday. It's their highest total since they took down Jake Delhomme eight times in a win over Carolina on Nov. 20, 2005.

Next steps

The Bears will try to make it back-to-back wins when they visit Minnesota this week. The Bears lost 19-13 to the Vikings on Nov. 16.

Minnesota-Wisconsin football highlights Big Ten undercard

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minnesota and Wisconsin will try again to keep their rivalry streak alive, and Indiana and Purdue now have another chance to resume their series as well.

The Big Ten on Sunday announced the undercard to Saturday's conference title game between No. 3 Ohio State and No. 15 Northwestern. Dubbed "Champions Week" by the league, the plan was to give every team in the conference a chance to play an extra game after the end of the regular season. That means high-profile cancellations like Minnesota-Wisconsin and Indiana-Purdue can now be made up.

Indiana will try again to play in-state rival Purdue for the Old Oaken Bucket. Their Dec. 12 game was called off because of COVID-19 issues.

Wisconsin is set to host Minnesota on Saturday, and No. 7 Indiana hosts Purdue on Friday night. Rutgers hosts Nebraska in Friday's other game. The rest of the Saturday slate includes Illinois at Penn State, Michigan at No. 18 Iowa and Michigan State at Maryland.

Minnesota and Wisconsin were supposed to play Nov. 28, but the game was canceled because of elevated COVID-19 cases in the Minnesota program. If Saturday's game takes place, it will be the 130th meeting between the teams. They've played every year since 1907, making this the longest-running uninterrupted series in FBS history.

"This game means a tremendous amount to the student-athletes, coaches and fans of both schools," Minnesota coach P.J. Fleck said. "We are excited to play and extend this rivalry, as Saturday's game will be the 130th meeting. In a year of constant change, we appreciate the Big Ten, both administrations and each conference member institution for preserving this rivalry."

Indiana will try again to play in-state rival Purdue for the Old Oaken Bucket. Their Dec. 12 game was called off because of COVID-19 issues.

The Michigan State-Maryland game is also a rescheduling of a matchup that was supposed to take place Nov. 21.

SCOREBOARD

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	10	3	0	.769	359	321
Miami	8	5	0	.615	330	245
New England	6	7	0	.462	277	279
N.Y. Jets	0	13	0	.000	183	393
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	9	4	0	.692	372	300
Tennessee	9	4	0	.692	390	336
Houston	4	9	0	.308	295	359
Jacksonville	1	12	0	.077	261	383
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Pittsburgh	11	2	0	.846	349	237
Cleveland	9	3	0	.750	306	321
Baltimore	7	5	0	.583	316	231
Cincinnati	2	10	1	.192	244	338
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Kansas City	12	1	0	.923	403	281
Las Vegas	7	6	0	.538	350	391
Denver	5	8	0	.385	257	347
L.A. Chargers	4	9	0	.308	297	362

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	6	7	0	.462	287	275
N.Y. Giants	5	8	0	.385	238	291
Philadelphia	4	8	1	.346	277	328
Dallas	4	9	0	.308	298	400
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	368	265
Tampa Bay	8	5	0	.615	370	294
Atlanta	4	9	0	.308	328	322
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	307	332
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Green Bay	10	3	0	.769	410	323
Chicago	6	7	0	.462	282	291
Minnesota	6	7	0	.462	333	355
Detroit	5	8	0	.385	310	389
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
L.A. Rams	9	4	0	.692	325	246
Seattle	9	4	0	.692	393	324
Arizona	7	6	0	.538	358	303
San Francisco	5	8	0	.385	300	311

x-clinched playoff spot

Sunday's Games

Arizona 26, N.Y. Giants 7
Chicago 36, Houston 7
Dallas 30, Cincinnati 7
Denver 32, Carolina 27
Kansas City 33, Miami 27
Tampa Bay 26, Minnesota 14
Tennessee 31, Jacksonville 10
Indianapolis 44, Las Vegas 27
Seattle 40, N.Y. Jets 3
Green Bay 31, Detroit 24
L.A. Chargers 20, Atlanta 17
Philadelphia 24, New Orleans 21
Washington 23, San Francisco 15
Buffalo 26, Pittsburgh 15

Monday's Game

Baltimore at Cleveland

Thursday's Game

L.A. Chargers at Las Vegas, 8:20 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Buffalo at Denver, 4:30 p.m.
Carolina at Green Bay, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 20

Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Houston at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
New England at Miami, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Dallas, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Washington, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at L.A. Rams, 4:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Kansas City at New Orleans, 4:25 p.m.
Cleveland at N.Y. Giants, 8:20 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 21

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 8:15 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 12, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Alabama (62)	10-0	1550	1
2. Notre Dame	10-0	1482	2
3. Ohio St.	5-0	1405	3
4. Clemson	9-1	1388	4
5. Texas A&M	7-1	1286	5
6. Cincinnati	8-0	1248	7
7. Indiana	6-1	1140	8
8. Iowa St.	8-2	1059	10
9. Coastal Carolina	11-0	994	11
10. Georgia	7-2	968	12
11. Florida	8-2	940	6
12. Oklahoma	7-2	902	13
13. Southern Cal	5-0	774	16
14. BYU	10-1	724	14
15. Northwestern	6-1	691	15
16. North Carolina	8-3	631	20
17. Louisiana-Lafayette	9-1	566	17
18. Iowa	6-2	502	19
19. Miami	8-2	454	9
20. Tulsa	6-1	408	18
21. Texas	6-3	227	23
22. Liberty	9-1	184	22
23. Buffalo	5-0	183	24
24. NC State	8-3	137	-
25. San Jose St.	6-0	124	-

Others receiving votes: Oklahoma St. 83, Marshall 47, Boise St. 12, UCF 11, Washington 9, Army 9, Auburn 8, TCU 3, Appalachian St. 1.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

AP Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 13, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Gonzaga (54)	3-0	1541	1
2. Baylor (7)	4-0	1491	2
3. Iowa (1)	6-0	1427	3
4. Michigan St.	6-0	1307	4
5. Kansas	6-1	1289	5
6. Houston	4-0	1169	7
7. Villanova	5-1	1163	9
8. West Virginia	6-1	1113	11
9. Creighton	4-1	1037	8
10. Tennessee	2-0	941	12
11. Texas	5-1	873	13
12. Wisconsin	4-1	846	13
13. Illinois	4-2	742	6
14. Texas Tech	6-1	669	17
15. Florida St.	3-0	619	20
16. Missouri	5-0	491	-
17. Virginia	3-1	456	18
18. San Diego St.	5-0	455	24
19. Rutgers	4-0	396	21
20. Ohio St.	5-0	392	22
21. Duke	2-2	345	10
22. North Carolina	4-2	328	16
23. Louisville	4-0	164	25
24. Clemson	5-0	156	-
25. Michigan	6-0	142	-

Others receiving votes: Richmond 140, Saint Louis 121, Virginia Tech 115, Xavier 55, Oklahoma St. 48, Oregon 31, Indiana 22, Florida 18, Arizona St 13, UCLA 9, UConn 7, Arizona 5, Syracuse 4, Georgia 4, Arkansas 4, SMU 1, Minnesota 1.

AP Women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 13, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Stanford (26)	4-0	742	1
2. Louisville (1)	5-0	692	2
3. UConn (1)	1-0	676	3
4. NC State (2)	6-0	673	4
5. South Carolina	4-1	640	5
6. Arizona	4-0	607	6
7. Baylor	3-1	544	7
7. Oregon	5-0	544	8
9. Kentucky	6-0	507	9
10. Texas A&M	6-0	470	10
11. UCLA	4-1	445	11
12. Arkansas	7-1	409	13
13. Mississippi St.	2-1	406	12
14. Maryland	3-1	356	14
15. Indiana	2-1	323	15
16. Northwestern	1-0	290	17
17. Ohio St.	4-0	220	18
18. Syracuse	4-0	211	20
19. Michigan	5-0	205	19
20. Missouri St.	3-1	192	21
21. Oregon St.	3-2	117	15
22. Texas	4-1	115	23
23. South Florida	3-1	113	-
24. DePaul	2-2	78	24
25. Gonzaga	3-2	69	25

Others receiving votes: Wake Forest 23, Iowa St. 15, Michigan St. 15, Virginia Tech 13, Georgia 12, North Carolina 5, West Virginia 5, South Dakota St. 4, Arizona St. 3, Utah 3, Villanova 2, Florida St. 2, Boston College 2, Rutgers 1, Iowa 1.

Vanderbilt hires ND's Lea as head coach

By TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Vanderbilt has hired Notre Dame defensive coordinator Clark Lea as its new football coach, bringing back a Nashville native and former Commodores fullback to revive the program.

Lea will be introduced next week at a news conference. He currently is busy helping No. 2 Notre Dame (10-0) prepare to play No. 4 Clemson on Saturday in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game with a spot in the College Football Playoff on the line.

Vanderbilt athletic director Candice Lee thanked Notre Dame's president, athletic director and coach Brian Kelly for their cooperation during the hiring process. Lee said it's important to everyone, including Lea, that he fulfill his obligations to Notre Dame.

"Clark Lea is the leader we trust to continue the challenging but exciting work that will elevate the Vanderbilt football program to unprecedented heights," Lee said in a statement Monday night.

The 38-year-old Lea is a Nashville native who played baseball at Birmingham-Southern and Belmont before walking on as a fullback at Vanderbilt, where he played from 2002-04. He is a two-time graduate of Vanderbilt, having earned a graduate degree in political science.

Lea said he's excited to come back to lead a program at a university in a city that helped shape who he is.

"Vanderbilt is a special place with a competitive drive that I believe can translate into winning," Lea said in a statement. "My excitement for the role grew as I spent time with Candice Lee and Chancellor (Daniel) Diermeier. It's very clear they are united around a common vision for the future of the Vanderbilt Athletics program and football."

Lea started coaching at UCLA and also has coached at South Dakota State, Bowling Green, Syracuse and Wake Forest.

Lea has been Notre Dame's defensive coordinator for the last three seasons and has coached in eight bowl games.

The Fighting Irish made the College Football Playoff in 2018 behind a defense that ranked eighth in the nation in yards allowed per play (4.53).

Diermeier, who started as chancellor on July 1, said the school had high standards for this critical job and Lea exceeded expectations.

Women's NCAA Tournament to be played at one site

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

UConn coach Geno Auriemma wasn't surprised that the NCAA women's basketball tournament will be played in one geographical area. It just makes the most sense.

The NCAA announced Monday that San Antonio is the likely host site for the 64-team tournament next March. The move was made to help mitigate the risks of COVID-19 and matches that of the men's tournament, which the NCAA said last month will also be played in a single area – most likely Indianapolis.

"If you're in one place there's one set of protocols for the entire state. that's one positive to it,X said Auriemma, whose team has been to every Final Four since 2008. "Trying to get 64 teams from all over the country to fly to all those places and deal with all the protocols involved everywhere, it made more sense I'm sure to bring in everyone to Texas."

San Antonio was already the site of the 2021 Final Four. The NCAA has now begun talks with the city on hosting the whole thing and the organization hopes to have plans finalized by the end of January at the latest. It is likely that the NCAA could play games as far away as Austin because of the need for hotels as well as practice and game venues for 64 teams.

The first two rounds of the women's tournament have been played on campus sites the past few seasons with the top four seeds in each region hosting.

The regionals were slated to be played this season in Albany, New York, Austin, Texas, Cincinnati and Spokane, Washington.

The NCAA expects the tournament to be played in late March and early April as usual, though there is a chance it could be shorter. The tourneys are typically just short of three weeks long.

CLEVELAND

From page B1

"We are not going to take a half-step away from the Indians," said Dolan, acknowledging Tribe was an early choice. "The new name, and I do not know what it is, will not be a name that has Native American themes or connotations to it."

The decision was welcomed by Native American groups that met with the club.

"The team made a genuine effort to listen and learn," said Cynthia Connolly, executive board member of the Lake Erie Native American Council in the Cleveland Indigenous Coalition. "We hope this serves as a blueprint for other professional teams and the 200-plus high school teams in the Cleveland area. If there is a school or team that truly cares about fighting racism, these mascots cannot coexist."

The name change by the Indians is the latest by an organization reacting to a national movement, which gained momentum in the wake of widespread civil rights protests last summer, to have prejudicial names and symbols removed.

Across the South, Civil War monuments were taken down, and in some cases names were taken off buildings.

Houston Astros manager Dusty Baker agreed with the decision.

"I spent a lot of time with the Native Americans, especially the Cheyenne tribe in Montana, and I grew up with a lot of Navajo kids in Southern California," he said. "And so I think I think that it's apropos. And it's as good for the times and it's been a long time coming."

Dolan said his "awakening or epiphany" came following the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died while being arrested by white Minneapolis police officers this summer.

Cleveland's announcement was praised by Washington NFL coach Ron Rivera, who said his perspective changed after reading "The Real All-Americans," a novel about a Native American football team.

Rivera said he received angry letters from Washington fans who were upset with the name change.

"But I've also gotten some notes from Native Americans that have said thank you for doing that and for respecting our wishes," Rivera said. "The one thing I hope is that we don't forget them. We don't ignore them. We start paying attention to their plight and do right by them. They are Americans that do deserve the respect of us."

Dolan knows there are plenty of Indians fans who disagree with the decision.

"I consider myself a fifth-generation Clevelander," he said. "It's in our blood and baseball and the Indians are synonymous, and that goes to the whole intent versus impact thing. Nobody intended anything negative by our attachment to the name Indians, but the impact has been tough."

Cavaliers forward Larry Nance Jr. grew up in the Cleveland area and has always followed the Indians. He said the change is overdue.

"To me if the Native American people don't appreciate that name, then it's time to go," Nance said. "I'm not just a fan of the Cleveland Indians, I'm a fan of Cleveland baseball. If they change their name to whatever it may be, the Spiders, the Guardians, whatever it is, I'm still going to be a fan."

PRIME TIME TV

TUESDAY EVENING DEC. 15

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	Wheel of Fortune	The Bachelorette Tayshia has four men she cares about. (N) CC (DVS)				:01 Big Sky Cassie visits Merilee. (N)	
CBS 2 3 22	Ent. Tonight	Play On: Celebrating the Power of Music		NCIS Ziva surprises Gibbs. CC (DVS)		FBI A photographer dies in a car crash.	
NBC 5 8 16	Ac. Hollywood	The Voice (N) CC		The Voice "Live Finale Part 2" The winner is revealed. (N) (L) CC			
FOX 17 22 28 32	Modern Family	Cosmos: Possible Worlds		NEXT Shea reaches her breaking point.		Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS 34	Steves' Europe	Ella Wishes You a Swinging		Christmas at Belmont CC		Frontline "Return From ISIS" (N) CC	
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	Swamp Thing "The Anatomy Lesson" (N)		Tell Me a Story "Sweet Dreams" (N)		News	Seinfeld CC
MNT 50	Family Feud	Dateline "Deadly Detour" CC		Chicago P.D. "Bad Boys" CC (DVS)		Chicago P.D. "Ride Along"	
WCIU 26	Mike & Molly	Swamp Thing "The Anatomy Lesson" (N)		Tell Me a Story "Sweet Dreams" (N)		King of Queens	King of Queens
WHME 46	:00 Heartland	Heartland "Truth Be Told" CC (DVS)		Highway to Heaven "Dust Child" CC		Nightly News	
WGN 9	News	black-ish CC	black-ish	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L) CC	
A&E	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	:01 Storage Wars	:32 Storage Wars
AMC	6:00 Elf ('03)	★★★ Scrooged ('88) Bill Murray. TV-network bigshot meets Christmas ghosts.				★★ Fred Claus ('07) CC	
Animal	WalkNile	Walking with		Walking with		Walking with	
BET	:00 ★★ Beauty Shop			★★ Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins			
Big Ten	Football	B1G Football in 60		The B1G Show (N)		The B1G Show	
Bravo	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Don't Be Tardy ...	Don't Be Tardy ... ((F)) (N)	
Cartoon	Teen	Gumball	Gumball	Burgers	Burgers	American	American
Cinemax	Chainsaw Massacre	★★ Alita: Battle Angel ('19, Science Fiction) Rosa Salazar, Christoph Waltz. CC				:04 ★★ Anna ('19) Sasha Luss.	
CMT	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Cheerleaders	
CNBC	S. Smith	Shark Tank		Shark Tank CC		:04 Shark Tank	
CNN	OutFront	Anderson Cooper		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight	
Comedy	Office	Office	Office	Drunk	Drunk	Drunk	Drunk
Discovery	Moonshiners	Moonshiners "Backwoods is Booming"		:01 Moonshiners: Outlaw Cuts "Shiner Holiday Traditions" (N) CC			
Disney	Raven	Good Luck Jes.		Bunk'd	Raven	Raven	Raven
DIY	Barnwood	Building Off the Grid		Unbelievable Builds		Building Off the Grid	
E!	★★★ Speed ('94, Action) Keanu Reeves. CC					Celebrity Game Face	
ESPN	Top 25	30 for 30 (N)			To Be Announced		SportsC.
ESPN2	College Basketball			College Basketball UCF at Houston. (N)			
ESPNC	Football	College Football From Nov. 18, 1995.				College Football	
Food	Chopped	Chopped CC		Chopped (N) CC		Supermarket	
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N) CC		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	Tennis	MHSAA Football Classics					Spartans
Freefrm	Dr. Seuss' How-Grinch	:25 ★★ Disney's A Christmas Carol ('09, Children's) Voices of Jim Carrey. CC					Prep & Landing
FX	Office Christmas	★ Baywatch ('17) Dwayne Johnson. Elite lifeguards must save the beach from a crime wave. CC					★ Baywatch
Golf	:00 2020 U.S. Women's Open Golf Championship Final Round. CC						
Hallmark	9 Lives-C'mas	A Christmas Detour ('15, Romance) Candace Cameron Bure, Paul Greene. CC				Welcome to Christmas ('18) CC	
HBO	Rock of Ages ('12)	:10 ★★ Contraband ('12, Action) Mark Wahlberg, Kate Beckinsale. CC				REAL Sports With Bryant Gumbel (N)	
History	Oak Is	Digging Deeper		Curse-Island		Beyond Oak Island	
HGTV	Fixer to	Fixer to Fabulous (N)		Fixer to Fabulous (N)		Hunters	Hunt Intl
Learning	Welcome	Fat Fabulous		Fat Fabulous		Welcome	
Lifetime	Every Day Is	Christmas Pen Pals ('18, Romance) Sarah Drew, Niall Matter. CC				:03 A Taste of Christmas ('20) CC	
MSNBC	ReidOut	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	Delicious.	Teen Mom 2 (N)		Catfish: The TV		Delicious.	Delicious.
NBCSCH	Women's College Basketball				White Sox Rewind (N)		
NFL	NFL Total	NFL Football Teams TBA. (Taped) CC					
Nick	6:45 Despicable Me 2 ('13)			Sheldon	Sheldon	Friends	Friends
NGEO	Life Be	Life Below Zero (N)		Atlas of Cursed		Trafficked-van Zeller	
Oxygen	Unsolved Mysteries	Unsolved Mysteries CC		Unsolved Mysteries CC		Unsolved Mysteries CC	
Parmt	6:00 ★★★ The Help ('11) CC				★★★ The Help ('11) CC		
Showtime	:00 Ray Donovan	7:55 Your Honor "Part Two" CC		Inside the NFL (N) CC		Shameless "Go Home, Gentrifier!"	
Starz	:22 ★ The Grudge ('20) Andrea Riseborough. CC			Power Book II: Ghost "Sex Week" CC		:02 Spider-Man: Far From Home	
STZENC	6:40 ★★ Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides			★★ Men in Black II ('02, Action) Tommy Lee Jones. CC			Black Hawk
SyFy	6:35 ★★★ Signs ('02, Suspense) Mel Gibson. CC			★★★ The Goonies ('85, Children's) Sean Astin, Josh Brolin, Jeff Cohen. CC			
TBS	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Misery Index
TCM	★★ The Big Cube	Movie					
TMC	6:00 Kingpin	★★★ The Cooler ('03, Drama) William H. Macy. CC			:45 ★ The Waterboy ('98) Adam Sandler, Kathy Bates. CC		
TNT	NBA Preseason Basketball: Celtics at 76ers					Basketball	
Travel	Dead	The Dead Files "Anger of the Undead" (N)				The Dead Files (N)	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	
VH1	Martin	★★★ Boyz N the Hood ('91) Larry Fishburne.					Creed
WGN-A	Last Man Standing	NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC	

Man says machismo made him give in to divorce demand

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I was married to my wife for 29 years, and I have now been divorced for two. I have tried to move on, but I can't because I still love her. She initiated the divorce because she thought I cheated on her. I didn't fight her because I was too macho.

I don't know if I miss her or feel sorry for myself because I haven't been with a woman in more than two years. I'm attracted to women who are at least 15 years younger than me or who are married.

I have been on two dating sites for almost a year and even moved back to the state where my ex-wife lives hoping that one day she will ask me out. I've been throwing hints her way and have even written her letters, but she still thinks I cheated. I ache for her. What should I do? – Fighting Chance In The East

DEAR FIGHTING CHANCE: Your marriage is history, and your "exaggerated masculinity" caused it. I am struck by the fact that nowhere in your letter did you deny that what your ex-wife thought was true. I don't understand what being "macho" has to do with not denying you cheated. What you should do now is learn from it, grow from it and move on.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and his father had a falling out. My husband's father now has hired a lawyer to get the pictures and Vietnam medals back that he had given my husband as a gift years ago. This is his only son.

We have two sons whom my husband would like to pass the medals down to. He knows if he gives the medals back that he may never see them again because his dad has a girlfriend now who wants them. She's behind him pursuing the issue with a lawyer.

How can I help my husband? Should he give in to his father's demands and return the medals and pictures, or should he fight to keep them? – Middle Of A Mess

DEAR MIDDLE: How old are your sons? Because of this rift, do they still have a relationship with their grandfather? Would they appreciate the war medals and understand what they stand for?

My feeling is that you should stay out of the line of fire and allow your husband and his own lawyer to fight this battle. However, you MAY be able to sway the outcome if you or your sons write your father-in-law a warm letter telling him how sad you feel about the situation and that his medals are heirlooms they and THEIR children would treasure in the future. Then cross your fingers.

DEAR ABBY: At what age does a person stop calling an older neighbor "Mrs." or "Mr."? I was born next door and still live here, so I don't know what to call my neighbors anymore. – Grown Up North

DEAR GROWN: Before children reach adulthood, it is considered respectful to call adults "Mr." and "Mrs." Not knowing your neighbors, I can't guess how formal they may be. Because using their first names has not been your practice and you don't want to risk offending them, ask THEM what they would like to be called in light of the fact that you are all adults. Erring on the side of respect will never be wrong.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Should she be looking for a life partner?

Carolyn Hax

DEAR CAROLYN: I don't want children – and have health issues that would make pregnancy and childbirth life-threatening for me – and I enjoy having lots of time to myself. I have a good job, am saving regularly for retirement and enjoy my social life.

In light of all of the above, I have recently begun rethinking my assumption that I should be looking for a life partner. I am in my early 30s and feel OK with the idea of being alone in the foreseeable future.

Yet I wonder if this is shortsighted; at some point, will I regret that I didn't meet someone while there were a lot of partners (theoretically) available to me? How do I know for sure? – OK With the Idea

DEAR OK WITH THE IDEA: Conveniently, I don't think anybody "should" be looking for a life partner.

Add enriching things to your life, yes, and "circulate" enough to meet new people (I'll take the quotation marks away when enjoying a bunch of group activities is safe again), and keep an open mind to new directions your life can take – all of these are great ideas for anyone – and those open to dating can also extend and accept invitations as part of that. Healthy all around.

But actively evaluating people for their life-partner suitability is so specific that I think it actually interferes with – and overly influences – our natural screening processes.

In fact, I could even argue that trying to meet someone while the selection is bigger could lead to your pairing off with someone who's perfectly fine ... which then keeps you from pairing off with someone *great* for you but whom you only meet by accident 15 years later.

In that case, actively looking for a life partner for the reasons you describe would actually be more "shortsighted" than simply continuing not to try. It's all just a crap shoot anyway.

Since the object is to be happy with the life you have, and you're happy with the life you have, I'm loath to advise messing with it. Why do something to fix a hypothetical "at some point" when it might mess with your very real "now?"

Some readers' thoughts:

■ As I went through my 30s, I always tried to describe myself as happy with my life as it was, but open to finding someone who enriched it – as opposed to looking for someone as a life partner. It is all nuance, but the world is nuance after all. It also isn't just binary, you don't have to declare, "I'm always going to be single," or, "I must find a partner." Be open, and then if you find someone, it will be for all the right reasons. As I did. I met my wife when I was 39.

■ You don't need a partner, but you don't need to exclude the idea of a relationship, either. There are others out there who are looking for a great relationship with a great person with no expectations of expanding that circle. Good luck!

Email Carolyn Hax at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

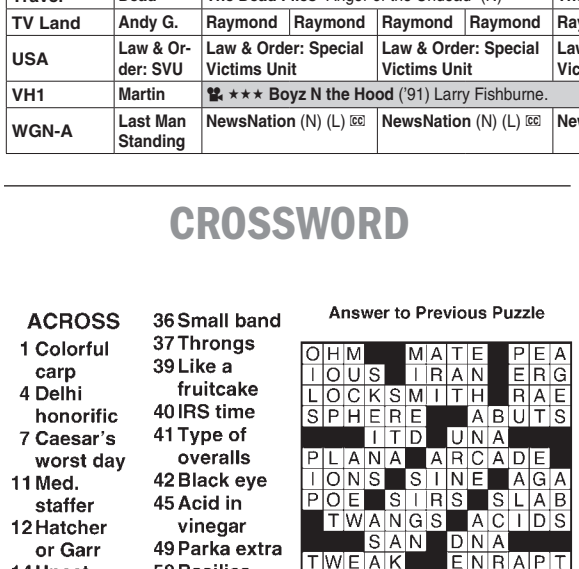
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Colorful carp
4 Delhi honorific
7 Caesar's worst day
11 Med. staffer
12 Hatcher or Garr
14 Upset
15 Lunch
16 Squeeze oranges
17 Put one's foot — —
18 Split to join
20 Ravioli and vermicelli
22 Startled cries
23 Wrath
24 Speedway competitions
27 Cooks in embers
30 Attention-getter
31 Ticket remnant
32 Quick to learn
34 Ticked off
35 Bakery items
36 Small band
37 Throngs
39 Like a fruitcake
40 IRS time
41 Type of overalls
42 Black eye
45 Acid in vinegar
49 Parka extra
50 Basilica part
52 Geisha's tie
53 This, in Havana
54 Spinnaker, for one
55 Pentagon VIP
56 Official imprint
57 Psst!
58 Body spray brand

DOWN
1 MOMA artist
2 Silica mineral
3 Wild about
4 Scatters
5 Cattails
6 Tax shelter
7 Bearded flowers
8 Force
9 Charles Lamb
10 Establishes
13 Irreverent
19 Dickinson opus
21 Bedouin
24 Rear-end
25 Obsessed whaler
26 Yield territory
27 Road map nos.
28 Bakery item
29 Rotisserie part
31 Mountain chains
33 Stuffed animal
35 Snowman accessory
36 Toothpaste buy
38 Barbarian
39 Politely
41 Bandleader Count —
42 Women
43 Sprinkler connection
44 Tad
46 Frat-party attire
47 Mountain goat
48 Motion picture
51 Cry of disdain

Answer to Previous Puzzle

O	H	M			M	A	T	E		P	E	A
I	O	U	S		I	R	A	N		E	R	G
L	O	C	K	S	M	I	T	H		R	A	E
S	P	H	E	R	E			A	B	U	T	S
			I	T	D		U	N	A			
P	L	A	N	A		A	R	C	A	D	E	
I	O	N	S		S	I	N	E		A	G	A
P	O	E		S	I	R	S		S	L	A	B
	T	W	A	N	G	S		A	C	I	D	S
			S	A	N		D	N	A			
T	W	E	A	K			E	N	R	A	P	T
E	A	R		I	V	Y	L	E	A	G	U	E
A	G	O		N	E	A	T		B	U	N	T
L	E	S		G	E	M	S			A	Y	E



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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OVFRA

BBIER

MLINEB

SWDAOH

What are you reading? Are you taking a sign class?
I'm looking into it.
SIGN
12/15
SHE WAS GOING TO TAKE A SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS AND DECIDED TO READ ABOUT IT

Get the free JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Playjumble

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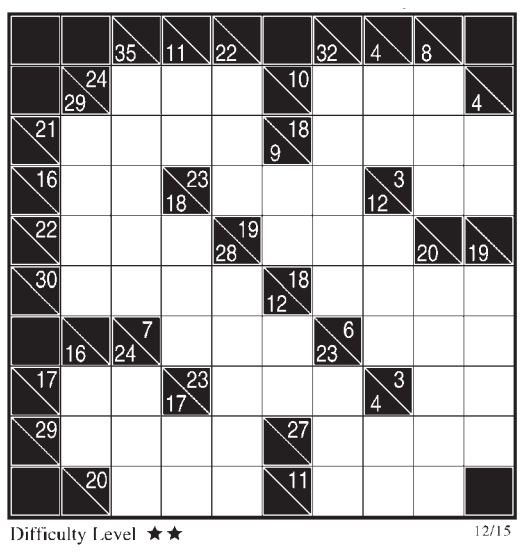
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

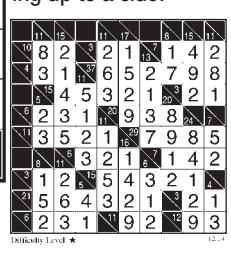
Yesterday's Jumbles: PLANK EXCEL CLOSET CHROME
Answer: The increasingly forgetful witch used software on her computer that had a — SPELL CHECKER

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★ 12/15

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

John Hope Franklin, who was a historian, said, "We must get beyond textbooks, go out into the bypaths ... and tell the world the glories of our journey."

Some bridge players believe that textbook deals never arise at the table, so why bother reading the game's literature?

We know that that attitude is ill-advised. In today's deal, how should South plan the play in five clubs after West leads a spade?

West's two-club overcall was a Michaels Cue-Bid, promising at least 5-5 in the majors. North doubled to show values, East passed because he had equal length in the majors, and eventually South pushed into five clubs. East was tempted to sacrifice in five spades because of the double fit, but the vulnerability was unfavorable. (Five spades doubled costs only 200, though, if West guesses the heart suit correctly.)

When the dummy appeared, South thought they had missed a slam. He could see one spade, five diamonds and six clubs. But given West's overcall, there was a risk of a bad diamond break.

Declarer won with dummy's spade ace, cashed the club king and played a club to his jack. Now he carefully played the diamond ace and king. If everyone had followed, South would have drawn East's last trump and claimed an overtrick.

North 12-15-20
♠ A 7
♥ 4 3 2
♦ Q 9 7 5 4
♣ K Q 6

West
♠ K J 8 6 5 4
♥ A J 9 8 5
♦ 6
♣ 2

East
♠ Q 9 3
♥ K 10 7
♦ J 10 8 3
♣ 10 8 7

South
♠ 10 2
♥ Q 6
♦ A K 2
♣ A J 9 5 4 3

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
1♣	2♣	Dbl.	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 6

But when West discarded on the second round, declarer played a diamond to the queen, ruffed a diamond, crossed to dummy with a trump and discarded his second spade on the diamond nine. He lost only two hearts.

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

		6			2			5
				6		7	2	
2	3	5	9	7	4	8		
		7		9		5		2
5	6	9		2		3	7	1
1		3		5		4		
		1	5	3	7	2	8	9
	9	8		4				
7			6			1		

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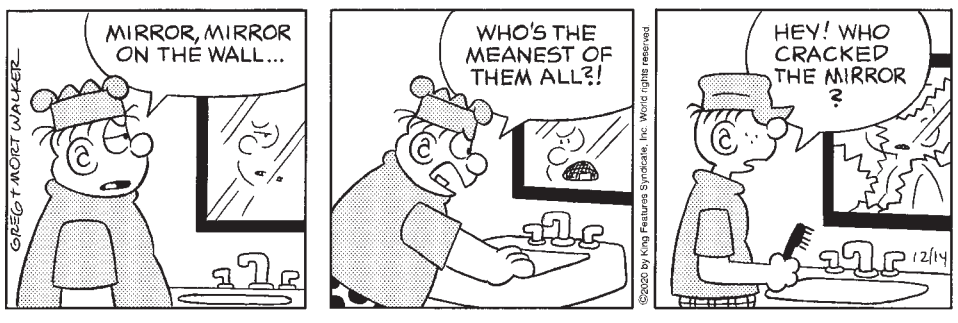
How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

5	4	9	2	8	7	3	6	1
7	2	6	4	3	1	5	9	8
1	8	3	6	9	5	2	4	7
8	9	1	3	6	4	7	5	2
3	7	5	9	1	2	4	8	6
2	6	4	5	7	8	9	1	3
9	5	7	1	2	6	8	3	4
4	1	8	7	5	3	6	2	9
6	3	2	8	4	9	1	7	5

BEETLE BAILEY


GREG + MORT WALKER
MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL...
WHO'S THE MEANEST OF THEM ALL?!
HEY! WHO CRACKED THE MIRROR?
12/14
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BLONDIE

AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT?
CAN'T A HUSBAND SURPRISE THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE SOMETIMES?
OH, MISTLETOE! HOW ROMANTIC!
HEE HEE! WE'D BETTER TRY IT OUT TO MAKE SURE IT WORKS
I WONDER WHAT HE'S AFRAID TO TELL ME ABOUT
WELL, I GUESS IT'S SAFE TO TELL HER ABOUT THE CARD GAME NOW!
KISS
12-14
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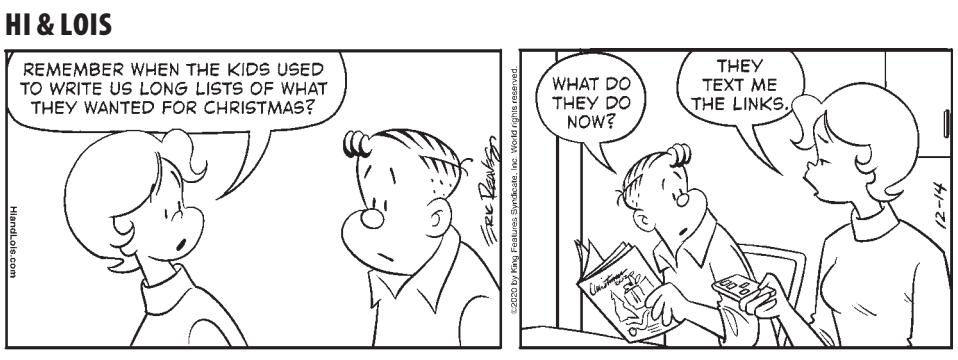
www.Blondie.com

HI & LOIS


REMEMBER WHEN THE KIDS USED TO WRITE US LONG LISTS OF WHAT THEY WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS?
WHAT DO THEY DO NOW?
THEY TEXT ME THE LINKS.
12-14
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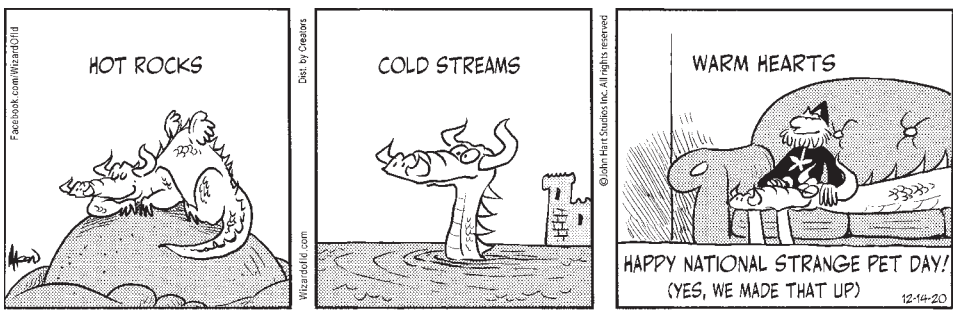
HiandLois.com

BC

WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT

TED, WE NEED TO REIMAGINE YOUR JOB.
I HOPE THAT MEANS YOU WILL REPLACE THE BORING PARTS OF MY JOB WITH EXCITING NEW PROJECTS.
IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT.
DOES IT MEAN DOING THE SAME WORK FOR HIGHER PAY?
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
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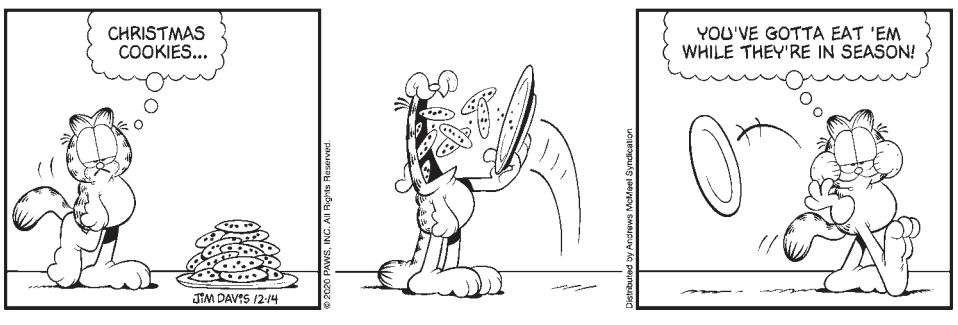
GARFIELD


CHRISTMAS COOKIES...
JIM DAVIS 12-14
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YOU'VE GOTTA EAT 'EM WHILE THEY'RE IN SEASON!
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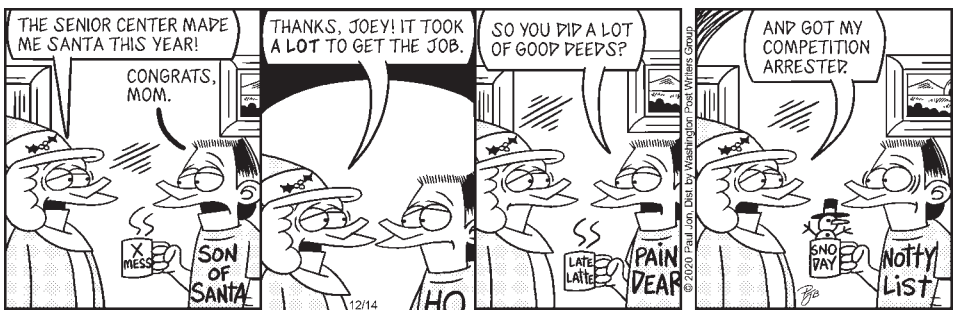
FORT KNOX


THE SENIOR CENTER MADE ME SANTA THIS YEAR!
CONGRATS, MOM.
THANKS, JOEY! IT TOOK A LOT TO GET THE JOB.
SO YOU DID A LOT OF GOOD DEEDS?
AND GOT MY COMPETITION ARRESTED.
X MESS
SON OF SANTA
HO
LATE LATTE
PAIN DEAR
SNO DAY
NOTTY LIST
12/14
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PICKLES

WHAT'S SANTA GOING TO BRING YOU THIS YEAR, NELSON?
HOT WHEELS, LEGOS AND A BIKE.
WOW. WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, ALL I GOT FOR CHRISTMAS WAS UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS.
THAT'S ALL YOU GOT FOR CHRISTMAS? NEW SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR?
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT NEW? THEY WERE HAND-ME-DOWNS FROM MY OLDER BROTHER.
12/14
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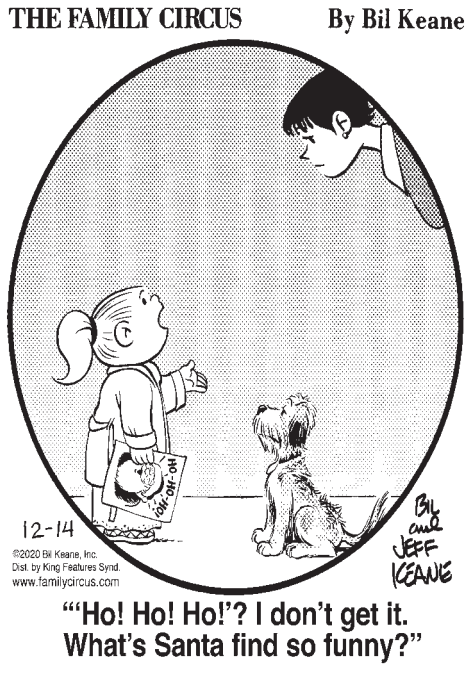
FAMILY CIRCUS

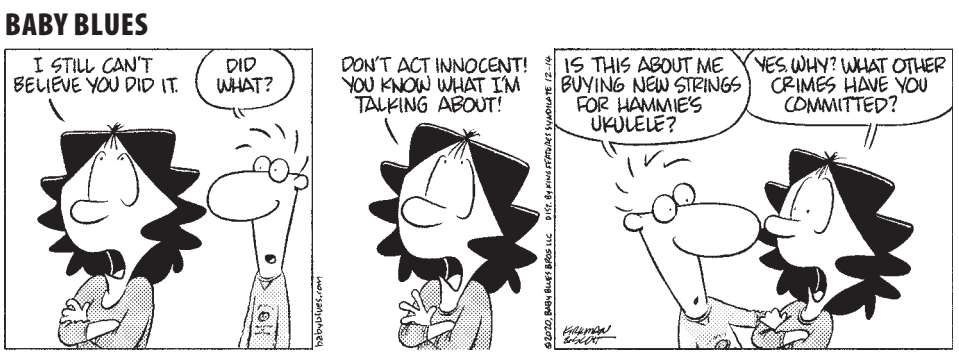


"'Ho! Ho! Ho!'? I don't get it. What's Santa find so funny?"

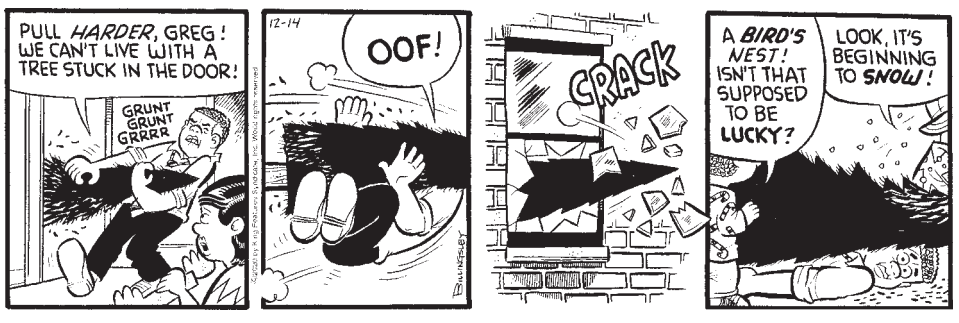
DENNIS THE MENACE

"DON'T BRING SANTA INTO THIS... IT'S NOT EVEN SNOWIN' YET."

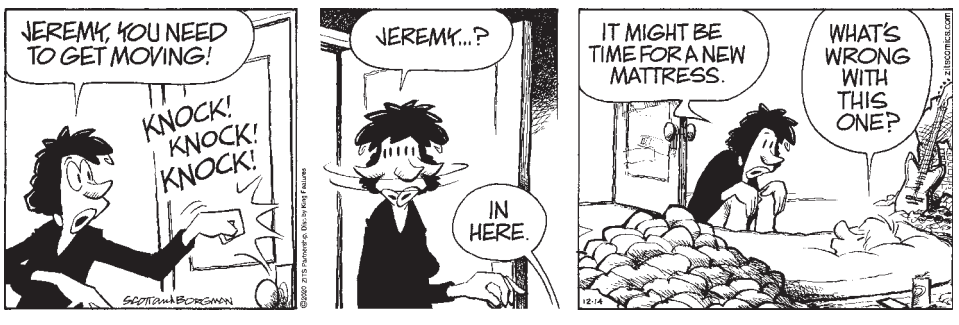
BABY BLUES


I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID IT.
DID WHAT?
DON'T ACT INNOCENT! YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
IS THIS ABOUT ME BUYING NEW STRINGS FOR HAMMIE'S UKULELE?
YES, WHY? WHAT OTHER CRIMES HAVE YOU COMMITTED?
babyblues.com

CURTIS


PULL HARDER, GREG! WE CAN'T LIVE WITH A TREE STUCK IN THE DOOR!
GRUNT GRUNT GRRRR
12-14
OOF!
CRACK
A BIRD'S NEST! ISN'T THAT SUPPOSED TO BE LUCKY?
LOOK, IT'S BEGINNING TO SNOW!

ZITS


JEREMY, YOU NEED TO GET MOVING!
KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!
JEREMY...?
IN HERE.
IT MIGHT BE TIME FOR A NEW MATTRESS.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS ONE?
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zitscomics.com

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

THIS MAN IS A "SAFETY IN THE VIKING WORKPLACE" EXPERT! HE'S GOING TO GIVE US SOME TIPS!
12-14
TIP NUMBER ONE... PACK YOUR OWN FOOD!
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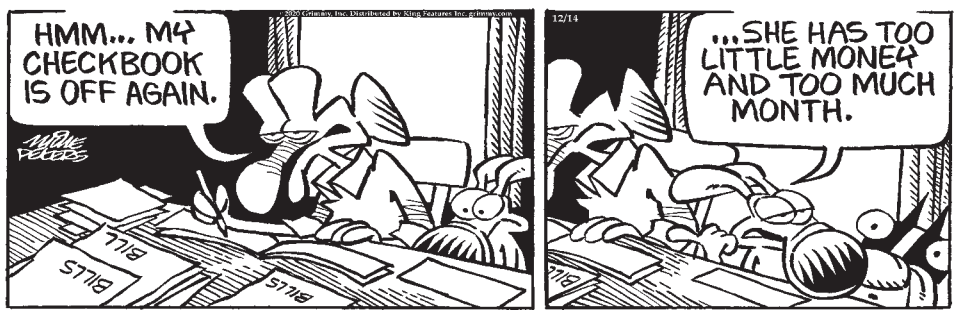
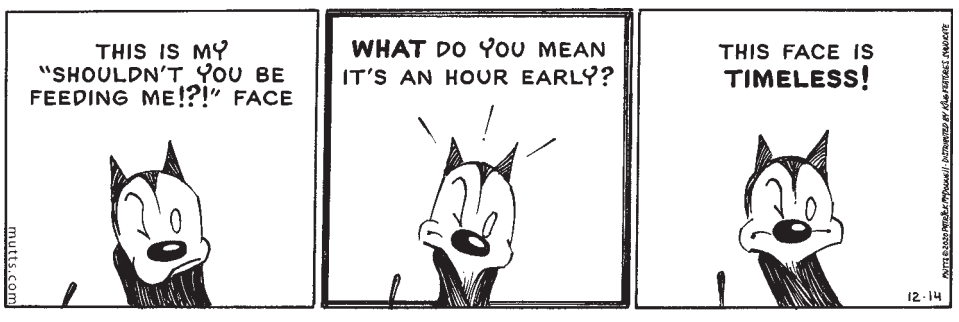
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



MUTTS



SALLY FORTH

LOOK WHAT I GOT!
12-14
IT'S A GINGERBREAD HOUSE KIT! I THOUGHT WE COULD BUILD IT TOGETHER.
OVER SEVEN WEEKS FOR A TOTAL RENOVATION OF $180,000?
UH, IT SAYS IT TAKES TWO HOURS, AND IT COST $20.
WELL, SURE, IF WE DON'T COME ACROSS ANY WATER DAMAGE OR ASBESTOS ICING.
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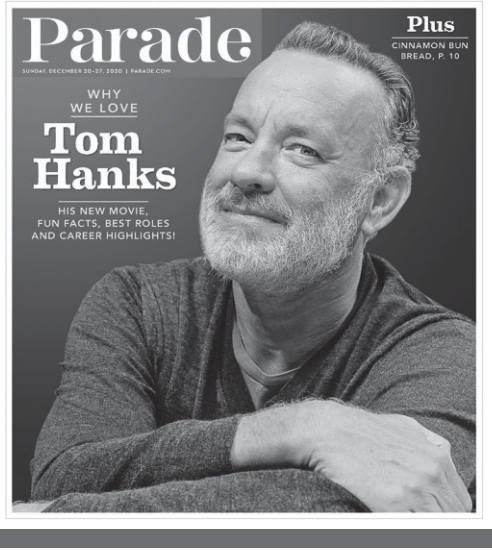
KEEFE

The Herald-Palladium

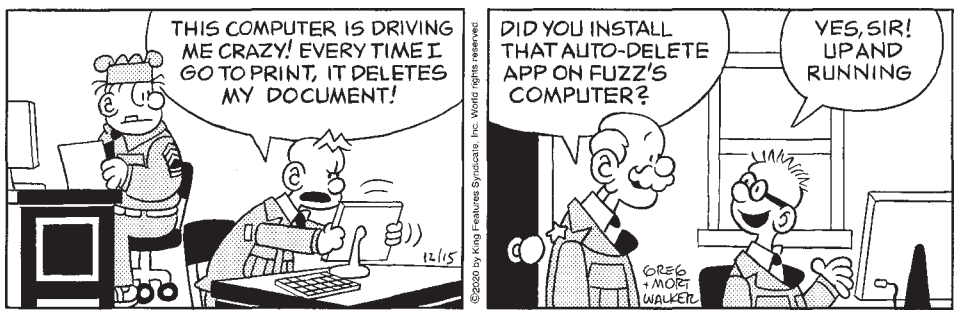
DON'T MISS

THIS WEEKEND'S ISSUE

Included in this Saturday's edition



BEETLE BAILEY


THIS COMPUTER IS DRIVING ME CRAZY! EVERY TIME I GO TO PRINT, IT DELETES MY DOCUMENT!
12/15
DID YOU INSTALL THAT AUTO-DELETE APP ON FUZZ'S COMPUTER?
YES, SIR! UP AND RUNNING
GREG + MORT WALKER
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BLONDIE

WANT TO BUY A CHRISTMAS WREATH, MR. B.?
I ALREADY HAVE ONE
WELL, WHAT ABOUT YOUR BACK DOOR?
APPARENTLY, ELMO HAS A SALES QUOTA!
12-15
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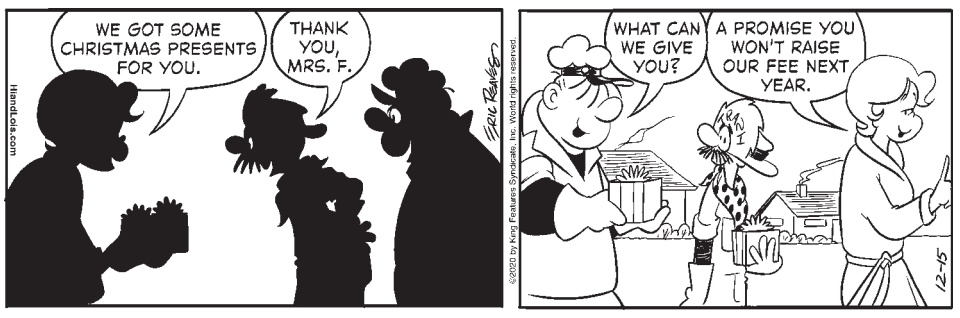
www.Blondie.com

HI & LOIS


WE GOT SOME CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR YOU.
THANK YOU, MRS. F.
HIandLOIS.com
WHAT CAN WE GIVE YOU?
A PROMISE YOU WON'T RAISE OUR FEE NEXT YEAR.
12-15
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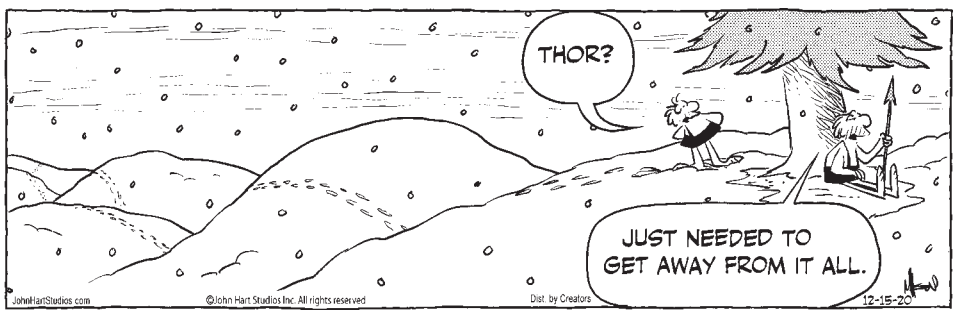
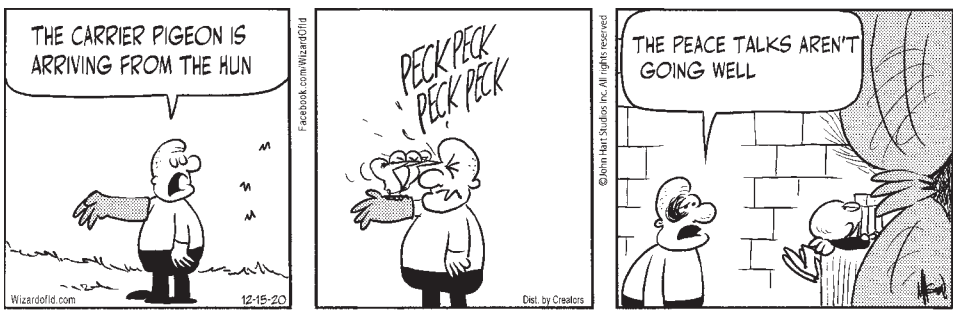
BC



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT

WHEN I SAY WE NEED TO REIMAGINE YOUR JOB, IT MEANS WE NO LONGER NEED ANY-ONE TO DO WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
DO YOU MIND IF I ASK WHEN YOU FIRST REALIZED THAT MY JOB WAS TOTALLY UNNECESSARY?
IT WAS FOUR YEARS AGO, BUT YOU SEEMED HAPPY, AND WE HAD THE BUDGET TO PAY YOU, SO. . .
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GARFIELD

I'VE BEEN GOOD, TOO!
HEY! THIS IS MY VIDEO CHAT WITH SANTA!
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JIM DAVIS 12-15

FORT KNOX

YOU ARE SANTA CLAUS??
THAT'S RIGHT, GENERAL.
I WAS HOPING YOU'D HAVE AN OPEN MIND.
I DO! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SHOW MY SUPPORT?
BY DRESSING UP AS MRS. CLAUS.
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12/15

PICKLES

DO YOU HAVE ANY YOUNG FRIENDS? YOU KNOW, UNDER FIFTY?
YOUNG FRIENDS? NO, NOT REALLY.
ME NEITHER.
YOU CAN'T RELY ON THEM TO FORGET THINGS.
YEAH. I'LL TAKE OLD FRIENDS WITH SHORT MEMORIES ANYTIME.
POST OFFICE
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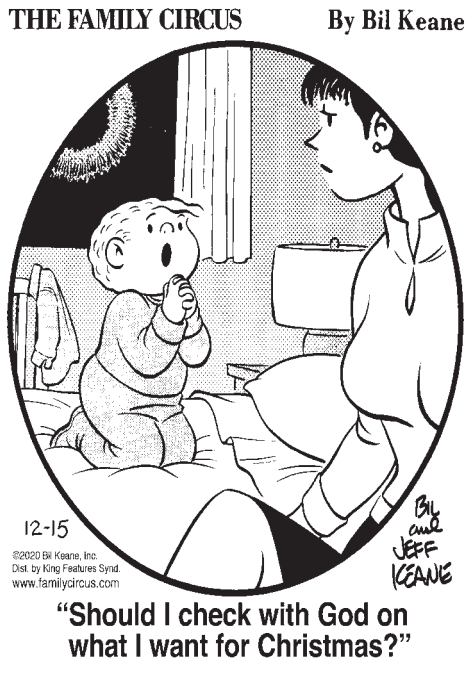
picklesinc.com

FAMILY CIRCUS


THE FAMILY CIRCUS
By Bil Keane
12-15
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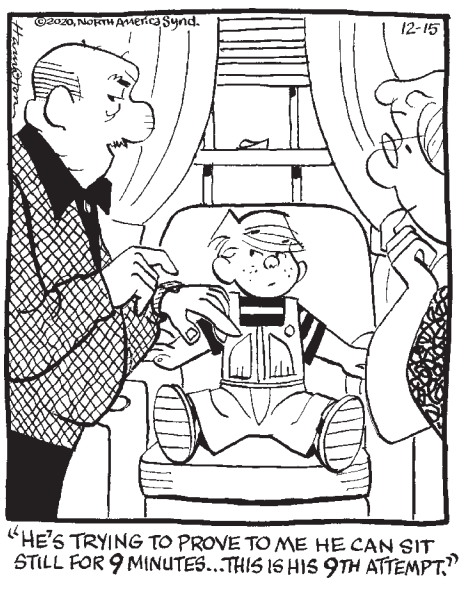
www.familycircus.com
BIL and JEFF KEANE
"Should I check with God on what I want for Christmas?"

DENNIS THE MENACE



BABY BLUES

MOM! WANT TO HEAR A NEW SONG?
YOU KNOW WHAT, SWEETIE...
...I DO, BUT DAD WAS JUST SAYING HOW MUCH HE MISSES HEARING YOU PLAY WHEN HE'S AT WORK.
♫ OHHH, HE'S SHAVING HIS CHIN, BUT WILL HE ♫ SLICE HIS SKIN...
CHINKA PLONK PLINKA CHINK
DID YOUR MOTHER SEND YOU IN HERE?
babyblues.com

CURTIS

SEEMS I BOUGHT A TREE TOO TALL!
IT'S FINE, HONEY! CURTIS AND BARRY CAN DECORATE IT AND IT'LL BE FESTIVE!
HEY, YOU PUT A RED BULB NEXT TO 'NOTHER RED BULB! HEY, SHUT UP! YOU'RE HANGING THE TINSEL WRONG! HEY, SHUT UP!!
IT'S ALL GOING SO WELL ♡
BILLINGSLEY

ZITS

JEREMY, YOU NEED A NEW MATTRESS.
I LIKE THIS ONE!
THERE'S NO SUPPORT LEFT! NOBODY CAN SLEEP LIKE THAT!
SCOTT & JERRY BORGMAN 12-15
WELL, ALMOST NOBODY.
Z
zitscomics.com

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

WE HAVE FLOWERS FOR EVERY OCCASION...
12-15
...WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
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BROWNE

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

I NEED TO FIND A NEW DATING SERVICE, MZ. GOOSE
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR OLD ONE, KITTY?
...IT'S MY MOTHER
12/15
MYRON PEDERSEN
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MUTTS

SALLY FORTH

OKAY, I GOT ALL THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE KIT PIECES LAID OUT.
AND I GOT THE LICORICE AND A HARD CANDY STICK.
12-15
FOR WHAT?
FOR WHEN WE OPEN A WALL AND FIND THE ILLEGAL WIRING AND UNFORTUNATELY PLACED HEATING DUCT THE PREVIOUS OWNERS LEFT BEHIND.
THIS ISN'T A RENOVATION. WE'RE BUILDING A GINGERBREAD HOUSE FROM THE GROUND UP.
OH. OKAY. THEN I'LL GRAB A HANDFUL OF GUMDROPS TO SERVE AS ZONING BOARD MEMBERS.
KEEFE
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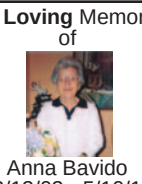
IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of



Anna Bavido
12/13/03 - 5/10/10
We love & miss you
Florence Ross,
Anita Gaudio,
Bruce Crain and
Peter and Shirley
Del Vecchio

EMPLOYMENT

OFFICE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
219 EAST PAW PAW STREET, SUITE 201, PAW PAW, MICHIGAN 49079-1492
(269) 657-8253, FAX (269) 657-8252, email: faulj@vbco.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2020

Press Release Contact: John Faul
Telephone Number: 269/657-8253
Email Address: faulj@vbco.org

Van Buren County Announces Palisades Decommissioning Panel

Paw Paw, Mich. Friday, December 11, 2020 – The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners announced the formation a Palisades Community Advisory Panel (CAP) to provide for open communication, public involvement, and education on the future decommissioning of the Palisades Power Plant in Covert Township. The nuclear power plant completed its final refueling and maintenance outage in October and will permanently cease operation in the spring of 2022. Entergy, the company that owns and operates Palisades, has also announced the transfer of plant ownership after permanent shutdown in 2022 to the company Holtec International for purposes of decommissioning, pending federal approval of the transaction.
"Palisades has been a part of this community for nearly 50 years. The benefits of the plant and its talented workforce cannot easily be overstated," said Commission Chair Richard Godfrey. "The County has taken prudent actions to prepare for a 2022 shutdown, but the fact remains that the work at Palisades will be far from over once the plant ceases operation. With the plant recently completing its final refueling outage, its shutdown and decommissioning will become of increased public interest. This is also true for the post-closure sale of the plant in hopes of safe, accelerated decommissioning leading to future site reuse. The Board of Commissioners recognizes this desire for information, which is why we are today announcing the creation of public panel to educate and advise on post-closure activities."
The Board of Commissioners stated that members of the Palisades Community Advisory Panel (CAP) will represent diverse interests, backgrounds, and areas of professional expertise including state, tribal, and local units of government; public health; education; the environment; emergency preparedness; labor; business; local units of taxation; the general public; and plant owners. The Board of Commissioners is expected to announce details on the panel early in the new year. The decommissioning of Palisades will begin following the plant's closure and reactor defueling in 2022 under continued regulation of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Under federal law, Palisades must be decommissioned by safely removing the unit from service and reducing residual radioactivity to a level that permits release of the property for unrestricted reuse. Per the NRC, the federal government has strict rules governing nuclear power plant decommissioning, involving cleanup of radioactively contaminated plant systems and structures, and removal of the plant's spent fuel. These federal requirements protect workers and the public during the entire decommissioning process and once completed. By federal law, the decommissioning of a nuclear plant must be completed within 60 years of permanently ceasing operations.

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HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

A steady pace forward will get you where you want to go. Put your energy where it will bring the highest returns. Don't let uncertainty deter you from reaching your full potential. Trust and believe in yourself, and reach for the stars.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) The grass may look greener on the other side of the fence, but that doesn't mean it's time to make a life-altering change. Take a closer look make sure your assumptions are valid.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Embrace change and put your plan in motion. Use your energy wisely. Don't waste time arguing with someone who will never see things your way. Take control and do what suits you best.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Refuse to let an unexpected change throw you for a loop. Make whatever adjustment is necessary to compensate, and keep moving forward. An energetic approach will be necessary.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Take a practical path when dealing with matters that could influence your earning potential. If you trust someone's word, you will have to make difficult decisions and changes.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Put emotional differences aside and aim to get things done. Concentrat on what's at stake and take physical action. Working alongside a loved one will bring you closer to each other.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Set the pace and put the changes you want to make in motion. Refuse to let red-tape issues get to you. An emotional revelation will encourage personal growth.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Don't trust hearsay. When in doubt, go directly to the source and find out where you stand. Romance is on the rise, but it's best to have a plan in mind. Don't make empty promises.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Channel emotional energy into love and romance, not into arguments and accusations. You'll get much further if you are mindful of what others expect and you are willing to work with everyone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Keep moving forward and don't look back. Give others freedom, and they will grant you the same in return. Don't let someone's uncertainty unnerve you. Channel your energy productively.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Be sure to get approval before making domestic changes that will affect others. Being up-front and enthusiastic regarding your plans will encourage others to pitch in and help. Learn from experience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Keep an open mind, but don't let anyone railroad you into a dodgy situation. Channel your energy into something that matters to you. Do something you enjoy or spend time with someone you like.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) A lifestyle change will give you a boost. Don't feel pressured to spend money to impress others. If intelligence and charm aren't enough, you may be hanging out with the wrong people.

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St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

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$25. per box- We mail responses to you once per week.
When readers respond to your ad via e-mail, we will forward them to you immediately if you provide us with an e-mail address or we will print and handle them in the manner that you request.

The Herald-Palladium

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